

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9006



Introduced by Representative Roman T. Romulo

AN ACT
CREATING THE NATIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR
EDUCATION, DEFINING ITS MANDATE, POWERS, AND
FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution mandates the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and to make such education accessible to all. Despite sustained public investment and numerous reform initiatives, the Philippine education system continues to face a learning crisis, characterized by low foundational skills, poor learning outcomes, and weak alignment between education and labor market needs.

The findings of the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOMII) underscore that these challenges are not merely programmatic, but systemic. In its year reports, EDCOMII highlights the fragmentation of governance across the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), resulting in policy incoherence, duplication of efforts, and gaps in accountability. EDCOMII further notes that the absence of a central coordinating mechanism has led to misaligned priorities, inefficient use of resources, and discontinuity of reforms across administrations.

Moreover, EDCOMII emphasizes the urgent need to strengthen whole-of-government coordination to address interconnected issues such as teacher quality, curriculum coherence, education pathways, and school-to-work transitions. It also points to weaknesses in data systems and labor market intelligence, which hinder evidence-based policymaking and limit the responsiveness of the education system to evolving economic demands.

In response, this measure seeks to establish the National Coordinating Council for Education (NCCE) as a permanent inter-agency body under the Office of the President, to be attended by the high-level officials. By placing the NCCE at the center of executive coordination, the proposed measure directly addresses EDCOMII's recommendation to

institutionalize a strong governance mechanism that ensures alignment of policies, plans, and budgets across education and workforce development agencies.

The NCCE shall serve as the primary platform to harmonize reforms, oversee implementation, and sustain long-term education priorities, including those identified by EDCOMII. It shall be responsible for formulating and updating a National Education and Workforce Development plan, ensuring coherence in targets and resource allocation, and promoting continuity of reforms regardless of changes in leadership.

By consolidating inter-agency coordination, rationalizing overlapping bodies, and instituting a results-based monitoring and evaluation framework, the NCCE aims to enhance accountability, improve efficiency, and ensure that reforms translate into measurable learning gains and better employment outcomes.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



ROMAN T. ROMULO

Lone District, Pasig City

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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the “National Coordinating Council for Education (NCCE) Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and to take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. The State recognizes the need to address the learning crisis and ensure the seamlessness of the education system. To this end, the State shall establish a permanent mechanism to ensure strong, effective, and continuous coordination among the agencies involved in education and workforce development, ensuring that reforms and priorities remain consistent regardless of changes in national administration.

SEC. 3. Creation of the National Coordinating Council for Education. - There is hereby created under the Office of the President an inter-agency body to be known as the National Coordinating Council for Education (NCCE), hereinafter referred to as the Council, which shall serve as the primary mechanism for directing, coordinating, and monitoring education and workforce development reforms across the Executive Branch.

The Council shall operate under the supervision of the Office of the President and shall ensure alignment of agency policies, plans, programs, and budgets with the National Education and Workforce Development Plan, and other subsequent midterm and long-term plans on education and workforce development.

SEC. 4. Composition of the Council. - The President of the Philippines shall serve as Chairperson of the Council, consistent with the established practice in inter-agency bodies

of national significance. The President may designate a Cabinet Secretary as Vice Chairperson to oversee operational coordination, with the following as members:

1. Secretary, Department of Education (DepEd);
2. Chairperson, Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
3. Director General, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA);
4. Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
5. Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
6. Secretary, Department of Budget and Management (DBM); and
7. Secretary, Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev)
8. Chairperson, National Commission for Culture and the Arts
9. Chairperson, Philippine Sports Commission

All Members, in their capacity as heads of their respective agencies, shall extend full and prompt assistance and cooperation to the Council, and shall furnish such information and data as may be necessary for the discharge of its mandates. They shall likewise be responsible for ensuring the proper and efficient implementation, within their respective jurisdictions, of programs, projects, and activities aligned with the National Education and Workforce Development Plan.

SEC. 5. Powers and Functions. - The Council shall have the following powers and functions:

1. Ensure alignment and harmonization of policies and programs across education agencies and relevant government bodies;
2. Oversee the implementation and updating of the National Education and Workforce Development Plan, to maintain coherence in targets, priorities, and resource allocation;
3. Direct the alignment of inter-agency efforts, including those established under Administrative Order No. 36, s. 2025, to eliminate duplication, strengthen coordination, and optimize resources.
4. Monitor and assess the implementation of priority education and workforce development reforms, including those identified by the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II), and other initiatives adopted by the Council;
5. Oversee the development of a comprehensive human resource plan for the education sector, covering both teaching and non-teaching personnel;
6. Ensure that programs and activities implementing priority education policies are properly and sufficiently funded;
7. Advance inter-agency collaboration on scholarships, research, grants, training, and other related initiatives, to strengthen system capacity;
8. Strengthen the labor market information system to guide education and training decisions and support evidence-based government priorities;

9. Direct and monitor the establishment and maintenance of interoperable data system to track learner progress and integrate data across relevant agencies;
10. Rationalize inter-agency bodies involving education agencies, in coordination with the Department of Budget, in accordance with Section 8 of this Act;
11. Advance key legislative measures on education and workforce development through the Legislative-Executive Advisory Council;
12. Track the implementation of major education reforms, including the recommendations of EDCOM II;
13. Submit an annual report on the implementation of the National Education and Workforce Development Plan, including progress, outcomes, and policy recommendations;
14. Call upon and require the assistance of other agencies, as may be necessary to attain the goals and objectives of the Council; and
15. Such other functions as the President may deem necessary and appropriate for the enhancement and improvement of the quality of education.

SEC. 6. Technical Working Groups. To support the work of the Council, the body may create Technical Working Groups in identified priority areas. Said Groups shall be composed of senior officials from member agencies, with at least the level of Assistant Secretary or Director IV of the relevant offices handling these concerns.

Further, the Council may invite or enjoin relevant heads of departments and agencies to join the Council and/or Groups, as necessary. This includes other executive agencies, heads of industry and educational associations and other organizations, as well as representatives of relevant sectoral groups, to ensure overall efficiency and effectiveness.

SEC. 7. The Council Secretariat. - The Secretariat shall serve as the central technical, analytical, and program management arm of the Council, and shall be responsible for policy analysis, program coordination, monitoring and evaluation, data integration, and the provision of strategic and administrative support necessary for the effective discharge of the Council's mandate. It shall be headed by an Executive Director with the rank of Undersecretary, who shall be appointed by the President.

The Secretariat may be staffed by a core complement of permanent personnel and augmented, as necessary, by technical experts, seconded personnel from member and other government agencies, and contracted specialists, subject to existing civil service, budgeting, procurement, and auditing laws, rules, and regulations.

SEC. 8. Rationalization and Convergence of Inter-Agency Bodies - To promote policy coherence and administrative efficiency, the Council shall serve as the primary inter-agency platform for matters relating to education and workforce development.

Accordingly, existing inter-agency councils, committees, and similar bodies with substantially similar mandates or memberships shall, to the extent practicable, conduct their

coordination, deliberations, and decision-making through the Council or its Technical Working Groups.

Meetings convened by the Council or its duly authorized Technical Working Groups shall be deemed compliance with the meeting and coordination requirements of such bodies, subject to applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

SEC. 9. Appropriations. The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Office of the President. Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continuous implementation shall be included in the budget proposal of the Office of the President in the annual General Appropriations Act, subject to existing budgeting, accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SEC. 10. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 11. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, orders, and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 12. Effectivity. — Notwithstanding the non-issuance of the IRR, this Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,