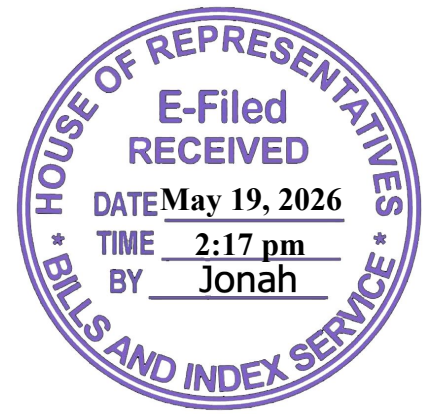


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **9318**



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish at least one (1) e-learning center in every city and municipality, expand access to digital learning resources, and strengthen community-based education infrastructure nationwide. It institutionalizes an integrated system of learning spaces and digital technologies to ensure that Filipinos, especially those in underserved and geographically isolated areas, can access quality education, skills training, and lifelong learning opportunities.

Despite the increasing use of digital technology in education, many Filipinos still lack adequate access to information and communication technology (ICT). The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed that in 2024, only forty-eight percent (48.8%) of households had internet access at home¹. Rural and low-income communities continue to face limited digital infrastructure, inadequate devices, and insufficient learning resources, which restrict access to online learning and skills development. PSA further emphasized that despite improvements, millions of households still rely on shared or public connections, which are often unstable and inadequate for sustained educational use². The Philippine Institute for Development Studies likewise confirms that infrastructure gaps continue to constrain digital learning opportunities across several regions³. These conditions limit access to learning materials and weaken the preparedness of the Filipino youth for an increasingly digital economy.

¹ Philippine Statistics Authority. (2025, July 21). *Percentage of Households with Internet Connection Increased to 48.8 percent in 2024; Two in Every Three Individuals Aged 10 Years and Over Used the Internet*. Republic of the Philippines. Accessed from: <https://psa.gov.ph/content/percentage-households-internet-connection-increased-488-percent-2024-two-every-three> on April 30, 2026.

² Manila Standard Business. (2025, July 22). *Nearly half of Philippine households connected to Internet, says PSA*. Manila Standard. Accessed from: <https://manilastandard.net/business/314619073/nearly-half-of-philippine-households-connected-to-internet-says-psa.html> on April 30, 2026

³ Cabaeros, C. C. and Tabuga, Aubrey D. (2021, March 10). *Filipinos' Access and Exposure to ICT: A General Overview based on the National ICT Household Survey*. Philippine Institute for Development Studies. Accessed from: <https://serp-p.pids.gov.ph/publication/public/view?slug=filipinos-access-and-exposure-to-ict-a-general-overview-based-on-the-national-ict-household-survey>. Accessed on: April 30, 2026.

The proposed measure upgrades e-learning centers with computers, digital resources, audio-visual materials, and reliable internet connectivity. It also maximizes existing public libraries and learning facilities, supports alternative learning systems, and provides accessible venues for digital literacy programs, training, seminars, and other educational activities.

Every learner without internet access, every student forced to study without proper resources is a future delayed; and access to knowledge opens access to opportunity. This measure affirms that every Filipino community deserves a gateway to knowledge and innovation, and that education must not depend on geography or economic status. Its passage is not merely an investment in infrastructure, but also in human potential, national progress, and a future where no learner is left behind.

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



HON. ERIC G. YAP

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 9318

Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN E-LEARNING CENTER IN EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “*E-Learning Center Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby the declared policy of the State to provide institutional mechanisms for education to be made available and accessible for the Filipino people, without discrimination on the basis of age, sex, ethnicity, culture, religion, or ability.

SEC. 3. *Establishment of E-Learning Centers.* – There shall be established at least one (1) e-learning center in every city and municipality in the Philippines; *Provided*, That additional e-learning centers shall be established such that there is one (1) e-learning center per fifty thousand (50,000) persons in every city and every municipality with a population of more than one hundred thousand (100,000) persons; *Provided*, further, That where e-learning centers already exist, its upgrading shall be undertaken, while existing public libraries and reading centers shall be upgraded into an e-learning center.

SEC. 4. *Functions of E-Learning Centers.* – It shall make available:

- a. Printed materials, such as books, journals, newspapers, magazines, posters, maps, and charts;
- b. Audio-visual aids or media, such as film, television, and radio;
- c. Digital devices, such as desktop or portable computers and electronic blackboards, equipped with appropriate software and stable Internet connection to access online courses, e-books, and other online resources, as well as enable web conferencing;

- d. a space provided with stable and secure wi-fi connection; and
- c. a venue for alternative learning classes, training, presentations exhibitions, lectures, seminars, workshops, debates, and other learning activities;

SEC. 5. *Implementing Agencies.* – The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways, shall undertake the construction of e-learning centers or the repair and rehabilitation of existing e-learning centers according to mutually agreed specifications, criteria and details; *Provided, That* the design of the e-learning center shall ensure a conducive learning environment, as well as provide sufficient space for educational materials, equipment, and administrative services.

The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) shall provide the standard set of relevant printed and audio-visual materials and shall digitize its catalog and collections to provide free and full offsite access.

The Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT) shall provide the necessary infrastructure to ensure reliable Internet connection and maximize digital technology in e-learning centers. DepEd and DICT shall jointly develop digital educational materials for use in e-learning centers, as well as mobile applications and similar software that will enable remote access to community learning center (CLC) materials, and other sources of information.

SEC. 6. *Role of Local Government Units.* – Cities and municipalities shall provide the site for e-learning centers and shall undertake its operation and maintenance. Local government units (LGUs) may allocate such funds necessary for the operation and maintenance of e-learning centers from the Special Education Fund, upon approval and authorization of the Local School Board.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the implementing agencies and shall be thereafter included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the DepEd, in coordination with the NLP, DICT, Department of Interior and Local Government, and other concerned government agencies and civil society, organizations, shall formulate and issue the necessary guidelines to effectively implement the provisions of this Act. The implementing rules and regulations shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of other provisions hereof.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders and issuances or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette, or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,