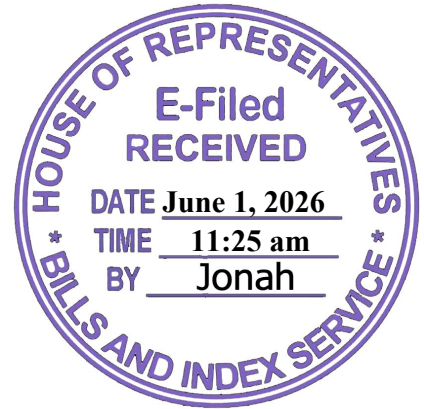




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9573



Introduced by **Representative EDUARDO R. RAMA JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Philippines, the education sector is currently governed and managed by multiple agencies with differing functions and mandates, including the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and local government units (LGUs).

Unfortunately, this arrangement comes with overlapping responsibilities, fragmented policy implementation, and uneven responses to issues related to education. A coordinated national mechanism is needed to ensure coherent policy direction across basic, higher, and technical-vocational education; to integrate health, social protection, and local government inputs; and to align education planning with labor market needs and national development goals. This fragmentation is at odds with the State's constitutional and statutory obligations to protect and promote accessible quality education.

To guarantee permanence, stability, and institutional continuity, the bill seeks to establish the National Coordinating Council for Education (NCCE), an interagency and multistakeholder body responsible for strategic coordination across all levels of the education system. The NCCE will harmonize policy formulation and implementation, consolidate and standardize education data and research, coordinate resource allocation and emergency responses, and strengthen engagement with non-government stakeholders to improve outcomes and accountability.



REP. EDUARDO R. RAMA, JR.

2nd District, City of Cebu



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9573

Introduced by **Representative EDUARDO R. RAMA JR.**

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and the 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”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the rights of all citizens to accessible quality education at all levels and to relevant and efficient technical education and skills development. For this purpose, the State shall establish a coordinating body which shall integrate, coordinate, and interface the programs and policies of the formal and non-formal educational systems, that is responsive to national development goals and the evolving labor market.

SECTION 3. *National Coordinating Council for Education.* There is hereby created under the Office of the President the National Coordinating Council for Education (NCCE), hereinafter referred to as the “Council.” It shall serve as the primary inter-agency mechanism for directing, harmonizing, and monitoring education and workforce development reforms across the Executive Branch.

SECTION 4. *Composition.*- The President shall serve as the 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 members:

- The Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd);
- The Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
- The Director-General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA);
- The Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM);
- The Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA);
- The Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
- The Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
- The Secretary of Department of Economy, Planning and Development (DepDev);
- The Chairperson of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts;
- The Chairperson of the Philippine Sports Commission;
- One (1) representative from private sector;
- One (1) representative from an association of private educational institutions.
- One (1) representative from a recognize National Student Organization.

SECTION 5. *Duties and Functions.*- The Council shall exercise the following duties and functions:

- a) Ensure the alignment of policies, plans, and budgets across DepEd, CHED, and TESDA to eliminate duplication and policy incoherence;
- b) Oversee and monitor the implementation of priority reforms, including the recommendations of the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II);
- c) Formulate and periodically update a multi-year National Education and Workforce Development Plan to ensure that national education goals are aligned with the country's economic priorities and are coherent with resource allocation.
- d) Formulate a comprehensive human resource plan for the education sector, covering both teaching and non-teaching personnel;
- e) Mandate alignment with the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF) to ensure "ladderized" pathways and credit transfers between vocational and higher education;

- f) Mandate the creation of a Unified National Education Database to track learner progress and employment outcomes across all levels;
- g) Strengthen the national labor market information to provide real-time data to educational institutions, to ensure that curriculum development and scholarship allocations are responsive to the industry needs.
- h) Review and recommend the alignment of international grants, research funding, and scholarship programs to ensure they support the strategic priorities with the National Education Plan.
- i) Propose priority legislative measures and executive policies through the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) to sustain long-term educational reforms.
- j) Conduct a skill gap analysis and facilitate public-private partnerships for internships, apprenticeships, and the integration of work-based learning into the curriculum;
- k) Conduct annual consultations on the ground-level effectiveness of reforms, ensuring that policies are evaluated based on student welfare, and mental health support.

SECTION 6. *Meetings.*- Regular meetings of the Council shall be held at least once a month. Special meetings may be held as often as may be deemed necessary: Provided, In the absence or incapacity of a regular member to attend any regular or special meeting of the Council, the duly designated representative of the member shall attend and be vested with the same power and authority as a regular member.

A quorum of the Council shall consist of four (4) members holding office at the time of the meeting: Provided, however, That the chairperson of the Council or the designated vice-chairperson is among those present in the meeting.

SECTION 7. *Compensation.*- The member of the Council shall be entitled to per diems and honoraria as may be approved by the Council. They shall serve without service credit, benefit or pay except the approved per diems and honoraria.

SECTION 8. *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 gathering and 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 and shall be appointed by the President to ensure effective cross-agency coordination.

SECTION 9. *Annual Report.*- The Council shall submit an annual report to the President and both Houses of Congress on the progress of the National Education and Workforce Development Plan, including specific learning gains and employment outcomes.

SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* Within thirty (30) days from the date of the effectivity of this Act, the Council shall convene to formulate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 10. *Appropriations.*- The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby charged against the current appropriations of the Office of the President. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary to implement 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.

SECTION. 11. *Repealing clause.* – All laws, decrees, ordinances, administrative orders, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION. 12. *Separability clause.* – Should any provision of this Act be subsequently declared unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION. 13. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation .

Approved,