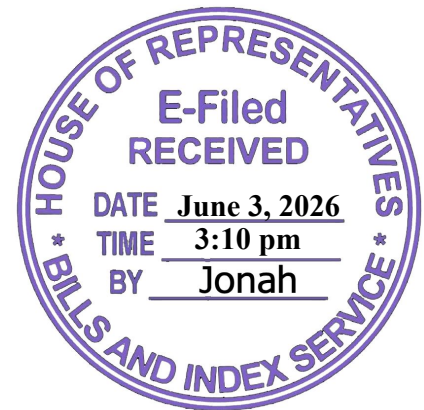


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9720



Introduced by Representative Kenneth T. Gatchalian

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The education system in the Philippines has undergone numerous reforms throughout its long history, reflecting continuing efforts to improve access, governance, and outcomes. Among the most significant of these was the 1991 Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM), which recommended the restructuring of the system to enhance efficiency and accountability. This led to the tri-focalization of education in 1994, establishing separate agencies for basic education, higher education, and technical-vocational training.

While this structure enabled each sub-sector to focus on its respective mandate, it also resulted in fragmentation, coordination gaps, and inconsistencies in policies and programs. Recognizing these challenges, subsequent reforms sought to establish mechanisms for alignment, including the creation of the National Coordinating Council for Education (NCCE) in 2000. However, these efforts were not sustained, leaving the system without a permanent and institutionalized body to ensure coherence across all levels of education.

As a result, the Philippine education system continues to face issues in coordination, efficiency, and overall performance. The absence of a central coordinating mechanism has limited the alignment of programs with national development goals and constrained long-term, strategic planning.

This bill seeks to address these gaps by establishing a National Education Council that will serve as the central body for coordination, planning, monitoring, and evaluation across the three education sub-sectors. It aims to align policies and programs, promote long-term strategic direction, and strengthen collaboration among government agencies, local government units, the private sector, and other key stakeholders.

By institutionalizing a unified and permanent coordinating mechanism, this measure seeks to reduce fragmentation, improve governance, and enhance the overall effectiveness of the Philippine education system.

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



KENNETH T. GATCHALIAN

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
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HOUSE BILL NO. 9720

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

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

1 **SECTION 1.** *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “National
2 Education Council Act.”

3 **SEC. 2.** *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the
4 State to make education as a critical component of human capital development,
5 socio-economic equality, inclusive growth, and sustainable development. Pursuant
6 to Article XIV of the Constitution which mandates the State to protect and
7 promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, take appropriate
8 steps to make such education accessible to all, and establish, maintain, and support
9 a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of
10 the people and society, the State hereby adopts the following policies:

11 (a) The State shall place education at the center of its development
12 policies, guided by a clear and long-term set of goals in the form of a

1 national education agenda that is a product of a long-term planning
2 and strategic investments in education;

3 (b) The three sub-sectors of education, namely the Department of
4 Education, the Commission on Higher Education, and the Technical
5 Education and Skills Development Authority, shall strategically
6 implement the policies and programs under this national education
7 agenda in a coordinated and harmonized education ecosystem so that
8 investments in education will lead to the achievement of the goal of
9 developing the country's human capital as an essential factor to
10 national development; and

11 (c) The State recognizes that to develop such an effective and efficient
12 education ecosystem, the role of a national council on education is
13 indispensable in enabling the three sub-sectors to implement policies
14 and programs coherently, while engaging other government agencies,
15 local government units (LGUs), the business sector, the academe, and
16 other public and private stakeholders who play a crucial role in the
17 education sector.

18 **SEC. 3. Objectives.** – The objectives of this Act are as follows:

19 (a) Promote a culture of long-term, strategic, and collaborative planning
20 among the three sub-sectors through the formulation and
21 implementation of a national education agenda that will compel the
22 adoption of a long-term vision and focused priorities for the education
23 sector;

24 (b) Improve education governance in the country and ensure effective
25 coordination and eliminate fragmentation of education policies and
26 programs among the three sub-sectors; and

27 (c) Establish an efficient institution through the creation of the National
28 Education Council with the necessary authority to mandate the

1 integration of education policies and programs, and strengthen the
2 collaboration of the three sub-sectors to improve education outcomes
3 and achieve the goals set under the national education agenda.

4 **SEC. 4.** *The National Education Council.* – The National Education
5 Council, hereinafter referred to as the NEDCO, is hereby created and attached to
6 the Office of the President, to develop the country’s national education agenda,
7 goals, priorities, and long-term national strategy, and institutionalize a system of
8 national coordination, planning, monitoring, evaluation, and management among
9 the three sub-sectors.

10 The NEDCO shall be composed of the following:

- 11 (a) President of the Philippines – Chairperson;
- 12 (b) Secretary of the Department of Education – Co-Vice Chairperson;
- 13 (c) Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education – Co-Vice
14 Chairperson;
- 15 (d) Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development
16 Authority – Co-Vice Chairperson;
- 17 (e) President of the Senate – Member;
- 18 (f) Speaker of the House of Representatives – Member;
- 19 (g) Secretary of the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development
20 – Member;
- 21 (h) Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology – Member;
- 22 (i) Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry – Member;
- 23 (j) Secretary of the Department of Information and Communications
24 Technology – Member;
- 25 (k) Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management – Member;
- 26 (l) Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government –
27 Member
- 28 (m) Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment – Member;

- (n) Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission – Member;
- (o) National Statistician and Civil Registrar General of the Philippine Statistics Authority – Member;
- (p) Chairperson of the Professional Regulation Commission – Member; and
- (q) Four (4) Members to be appointed by the President from each of the following stakeholders: education sector, business sector, academe, and other sectors, whether public or private, with a direct stake in education to ensure broad-based consultation and planning.

The NEDCO shall meet at least twice a year. The President may designate the Executive Secretary to attend on his behalf and preside over the meetings of the NEDCO. The other members may not designate alternate representatives other than their respective undersecretaries, or the officers next-in-rank to such members, to the meetings.

Majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

SEC. 5. *The National Education Council; Powers and Functions.* – The NEDCO shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) Develop the country’s strategic vision for education as anchored on national development plans, long-term and medium-term goals, plans and priorities, strategies for a coordinated and coherent implementation, and recommendations on the corresponding investments and appropriations in the form of a national education agenda;
- (b) Institutionalize a system of national coordination in the planning, monitoring, evaluation, implementation, and management of the national education agenda to ensure coherent strategic direction by the three sub-sectors and avoid possible overlaps, gaps, and

inconsistencies that may result from non-alignment of policies, plans and programs;

(c) Serve as a regular forum for inter-sub-sectoral consultations and proposals for intervention to address cross-cutting policies and programs of the three sub-sectors;

(d) Ensure effective, harmonized, and coordinated planning among the three sub-sectors on issues critical to the education sector including but not limited to the following: a teacher education program that will equip teachers with the required skills, trainings, and competencies and is suitable and responsive to the needs of the three sub-sectors, taking into account the real demand of the labor market and needs of the industry; an integrated curriculum that will deliver the desired education goals, priorities, and outcomes under the national education agenda; and a K to 12 graduates employment plan that ensures a job-skills match between senior high school graduates vis-à-vis the qualifications and needs of the government and the private sector;

(e) Coordinate with government agencies, LGUs, and other relevant sectors to promote policy and program coherence;

(f) Regularly monitor, evaluate, review, and update the education programs under the national education agenda, as well as existing programs, for tighter inter-sub-sector coordination;

(g) Communicate, whenever it deems necessary, the country's national education agenda, policies, priorities, and programs to both local and international communities, including the public reporting of the State of Philippine Education Address;

(h) Implement an action agenda for the development of the country's capacity for, and success in, education as measured by the National Achievement Test, Programme for International Student Assessment,

1 Education Index, Education for All Development Index, and other
2 indices and measures that it may deem appropriate in measuring the
3 growth and development of the education sector in the country, or
4 among countries;

5 (i) Submit annual reports to the Philippine Congress on the progress of
6 the implementation of this Act; and

7 (j) Perform other functions as may be necessary for its implementation.

8 **SEC. 6.** *The National Education Agenda.* – The national education
9 agenda shall be anchored on national development plans and establish the
10 country’s strategic vision for education, long-term and medium-term goals, plans
11 and priorities, strategies for a coordinated and coherent implementation, and
12 recommendations on the corresponding investments and appropriations in the form
13 of a national education agenda. It shall provide a roadmap for improving education
14 governance through clear-cut delineation and complementation of education
15 policies and programs across the three sub-sectors and other stakeholders. It shall
16 also identify areas and strategies to stimulate the role of other government agencies
17 and LGUs in the attainment of its vision.

18 The national education agenda shall have a minimum of five (5)-year
19 horizon, to be updated annually and reviewed periodically by the NEDCO. The
20 three sub-sectors, concerned government agencies, and concerned stakeholders
21 shall strictly comply with the national education agenda and shall incorporate its
22 pertinent policies in their respective programs.

23 The national education agenda shall be developed by the NEDCO, in
24 consultation with other relevant government agencies, LGUs, and other
25 stakeholders. It shall be completed within six (6) months from the effectivity of
26 this Act.

27 **SEC. 7.** *The NEDCO Secretariat.* – To provide support to the NEDCO, a
28 Secretariat shall be established within the Office of the President and shall be

1 under its control and supervision. It shall be headed by an Executive Director who
2 shall be nominated by the NEDCO and appointed by the President of the
3 Philippines. The Executive Director shall have at least ten (10) years of experience
4 and practice in the field of education to qualify for nomination and appointment.

5 The NEDCO shall determine its organizational structure, staffing pattern,
6 and compensation schedule as it may deem necessary, and shall appoint officers
7 and employees in accordance with Civil Service laws, rules and regulations.

8 The initial staffing structure and complement of the Secretariat shall be
9 submitted by the NEDCO to the Department of Budget and Management for
10 funding. Pending the creation of the appropriate plantilla positions, the NEDCO
11 shall constitute an interim Secretariat within one (1) month from the effectivity of
12 this Act, through the temporary detail of competent personnel from the three sub-
13 sectors.

14 The NEDCO shall define the duties and responsibilities of the Secretariat
15 which shall, in turn, formulate and adopt its own internal operating rules and
16 procedures.

17 **SEC. 8. *Educational Mapping and Statistics for the National Education***
18 *Agenda.* – To ensure an evidenced-based formulation and crafting of the national
19 education agenda, the Philippine Statistics Authority is hereby mandated to:

- 20 (a) strengthen its core unit that is dedicated to the generation, analysis,
21 utilization, and dissemination of all education and literacy statistics
22 and information, including the mapping of data related to education as
23 a dimension of poverty under Republic Act No. 11315 or the
24 “Community-Based Monitoring System Act”;
- 25 (b) develop and manage a nationwide database of such statistics and
26 information;
- 27 (c) systematize its administrative and operational linkages with the
28 statistical or mapping units of the three sub-sectors; and

1 (d) coordinate with other government agencies whose mandate requires
2 the conduct of community mapping programs that are relevant to the
3 education sector such as the Department of the Interior and Local
4 Government and the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

5 **SEC. 9. *Annual Report.*** – The NEDCO shall submit an annual report to
6 the President and both houses of Congress on or before the last day of May to
7 provide an assessment of the NEDCO’s implementation of the national education
8 agenda and present strategies to remedy implementation gaps. The report shall also
9 be made available to the public through the respective portals of the three sub-
10 sectors.

11 **SEC. 10. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial
12 implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the current appropriations of the
13 Office of the President. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous
14 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
15 Act.

16 **SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days
17 after the effectivity of this Act, the Office of the President and the three sub-
18 sectors, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall formulate and promulgate
19 the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

20 **SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act shall be
21 held invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions hereof which are not
22 affected shall remain in full force and effect.

23 **SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.*** – All other laws, executive orders, presidential
24 decrees, administrative orders, rules and regulations, issuances, or parts thereof
25 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
26 amended accordingly.

1 **SEC. 14. *Effectivity.*** - Notwithstanding the non-issuance of the IRR, this
2 Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or
3 in a newspaper of general circulation.

4 *Approved,*