



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. **9947**



Introduced by Representative EDGAR R. ERICE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Education is a fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution and one of the most effective means of empowering individuals, reducing poverty, and promoting national development. Every Filipino student deserves an equal opportunity to learn and succeed. However, despite the availability of free public education, millions of Filipino families continue to struggle with the increasing costs associated with schooling.

Beyond tuition, students and their families bear substantial expenses for transportation, food, school supplies, uniforms, projects, internet connectivity, gadgets, and other educational necessities. Amid rising prices and economic uncertainty, these costs have become increasingly burdensome, particularly for low-income households and families with several children attending school. As a result, many students experience absenteeism, poor academic performance, or even discontinue their studies due to financial constraints.

The challenge facing many Filipino learners today is not simply access to schools, but access to the resources necessary to remain in school and fully participate in the learning process. A student who cannot afford transportation, school materials, or adequate meals faces significant barriers to educational success.

This bill seeks to establish the National Students Allowance Program, which shall provide Filipino students enrolled in kindergarten, elementary, secondary, and tertiary education with

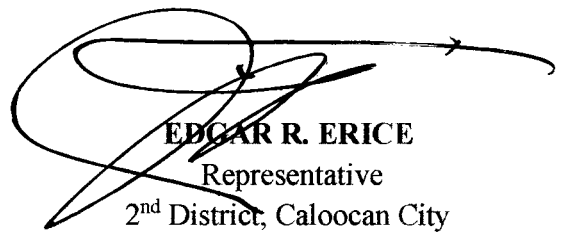
an allowance of at least One Thousand Pesos (Php1,000.00) at the start of every school year and monthly thereafter, subject to such amount and frequency as may be determined by the President in consultation with the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the Department of Finance (DOF). The allowance shall help defray expenses related to food, transportation, technology, internet access, school supplies, and other educational needs, thereby encouraging school attendance and improving student retention.

Equally important, this measure recognizes that educational assistance is a right granted by law and should never be treated as a political favor. Government-funded programs belong to the Filipino people and must be administered fairly, transparently, and free from political influence. Accordingly, the bill provides that the National Students Allowance Program shall be implemented in a strictly non-partisan manner. No public official, candidate, or political party may claim credit for, interfere with, or use the program for political or electoral purposes. The assistance shall bear only the official branding of the implementing agencies and shall be distributed exclusively through authorized government channels. The bill likewise establishes safeguards, reporting mechanisms, and penalties against those who seek to politicize or exploit the program.

By helping students meet the basic costs of education while ensuring the integrity and impartiality of program implementation, this measure strengthens the State's commitment to making education truly accessible to all. More importantly, it represents a long-term investment in the nation's future. Every student who remains in school because of this assistance contributes to the development of a more educated, productive, and globally competitive Filipino workforce.

At a time when many families continue to struggle with the rising cost of living, the establishment of a National Students Allowance Program offers meaningful support to students and parents alike, ensuring that financial hardship does not stand in the way of educational opportunity and success.

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



EDGAR R. ERICE
Representative
2nd District, Caloocan City



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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL STUDENT ALLOWANCE PROGRAM AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1

2 **SEC. 1. Short Title** – This Act shall be known as the “**National Students Allowance**
3 **Program Act of 2026**”.

4

5 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is the declared policy of the State to protect and promote the
6 right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, shall take appropriate steps to make such
7 education accessible to all by addressing financial barriers that hinder school attendance,
8 participation, and academic performance.

9 In pursuit of this, the State shall implement a student allowance program as a form of targeted,
10 recurring assistance meant to supplement the essential daily needs of students, particularly for
11 food consumed at school, transportation to and from school, and basic school supplies. This
12 allowance shall not be construed as a form of ayuda or general welfare dole-out, but as a
13 strategic and equitable investment in learners’ continued access to education.

1 The State shall allow for various modes of disbursement as may be determined by the
2 implementing agencies, including but not limited to voucher or student card systems, taking
3 into account accessibility, geographic limitations, and the diverse contexts of students across
4 the country, particularly those in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs).

5

6 **SEC. 3. National Student Allowance Program (NSAP).** – All Filipino students enrolled at
7 all levels, including kindergarten, elementary, high school, and college, shall be entitled to an
8 allowance of at least One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000) at the start of every school year and up
9 to every month of the school year, at such amount and frequency as may be determined by the
10 President in consultation with the Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher
11 Education (CHED), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and Department of
12 Finance (DOF), for the purpose of augmenting expenses incurred by students attending school
13 from including but not limited to food, transportation, technology, and school supplies.

14

15 **SEC. 4. Conditions for Entitlement.** – A Filipino student shall receive the allowance subject
16 to being enrolled in school and satisfying the minimum attendance requirements for classes so
17 far during a given month of at least Eighty Percent (80%) or as otherwise determined by the
18 DepEd and CHED. This allowance shall be in addition to and shall not replace or diminish any
19 other public or private scholarship, allowances, of financial aid extended to the student.

20 Accountability measures for falsification of attendance, including administrative sanctions for
21 school personnel and disqualification of students proven to have knowingly benefited through
22 misrepresentations shall be strictly enforced in accordance with existing civil service rules,
23 DepEd and CHED administrative issuances, and other applicable laws.

24

25 **SEC. 5. Disbursement.** – For below 18-years-old students, disbursements shall be made to the
26 parent or guardian, and for at least 18-years-old students, disbursements shall be made directly
27 to the student.

28 The DepEd and the CHED shall ensure that all eligible students are provided with direct,
29 secure, and convenient access to the allowance, either through cash, digital disbursements, or
30 voucher-based instruments such as student identification cards or reloadable cards, which may
31 be used with accredited educational vendors, including school canteens, transportation
32 services, and other suppliers of school related goods.

33 DepEd and CHED may also enter into partnerships with banks, digital financial service
34 providers, or other accredited institutions, subject to guidelines set by the Bangko Sentral ng
35 Pilipinas (BSP) and other relevant government agencies, to implement a disbursement system
36 that is responsive to the varying geographic, technological, and socioeconomic contexts of the
37 beneficiaries.

1 For this purpose, DepEd and CHED shall develop a system for the registration and
2 accreditation of educational vendors and service providers, including but not limited to school
3 canteens, school transport operators, bookstores, and school supply retailers, in coordination
4 with relevant local government units and agencies.

5

6 **SEC. 6. Financial Inclusion.** The disbursement system, through card or voucher, shall be
7 designed to support digital financial inclusion, allowing students to use the card not only to
8 access their allowance but also as a basic savings or e-wallet account, subject to applicable
9 regulations. The BSP and partner financial institutions shall ensure that the system promotes
10 secure and inclusive access to financial services, especially for students in remote or
11 underserved areas.

12

13 **SEC. 7. Administrative Costs.** – The DepEd, CHED, and other implementing agencies shall
14 allocate a reasonable portion of the program budget to cover administrative costs and expenses,
15 including, but not limited to, the development of information systems, accreditation of vendors,
16 financial management, monitoring and evaluation, production of student cards or vouchers,
17 and personnel training.

18

19 **SEC. 8. Incentives.** – The government shall promote private sector participation in the NSAP
20 through fiscal and non-fiscal incentives that ensure equitable, efficient, and accountable service
21 delivery to students beneficiaries. There shall be an additional 5% deduction from gross income
22 equivalent to the value of administrative or transaction fees waived by accredited private
23 partner service providers such as, but not limited to, school canteens, transport operators,
24 bookstores, and school supply retailers, who participate in the NSAP and ensure that students
25 receive the full value of their allowance without deductions.

26 The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), in coordination with the Department of Finance (DOF),
27 shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this provision, including the
28 documentation and certification requirements for claiming the tax incentive.

29

30 **SEC. 9. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of
31 this Act shall be included in the respective budgets of the departments and agencies concerned
32 in the annual General Appropriations Act.

33

34 **SEC. 10. Sustainability Framework for Long-Term Funding.** – The DOF, in coordination
35 with the DBM, the Department of Economy, Planning and Development (DEPdev), the DepEd,
36 and the CHED, shall formulate and periodically update a Sustainability Framework for the
37 long-term financing of the program.

1 As part of this framework, the DOF and its partner agencies shall conduct an actuarial analysis
2 every five (5) years to assess the program's long-term sustainability, cost projections, and
3 demographic trends affecting its implementation.

4
5 **SEC. 11. Monitoring and Compliance.** – The DepEd and the CHED, in coordination with the
6 DBM, shall establish a monitoring and compliance mechanism to ensure that the allowance is
7 used solely for its intended purpose taking into consideration transactions monitoring systems,
8 vendor compliance checks, school-level reporting, annual program reviews, and public
9 grievance and feedback mechanisms.

10
11 **SEC. 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days from the
12 effectivity of this Act, the DepEd and CHED, in coordination with the DBM, DOF, and other
13 concerned government agencies and stakeholders, shall issue the rules and regulations
14 implementing the provisions of this Act.

15 The agencies shall ensure that the program is implemented in a manner that maintains student
16 choice and dignity, and continues to reflect the principle of equitable assistance across
17 socioeconomic levels.

18
19 **SEC. 13. Non-Politicization of the Program.** – The implementation of this Act shall be
20 strictly non-partisan. No public official or candidate shall claim credit for, interfere in, or use
21 the educational assistance for political or electoral purposes.

22 The assistance shall not bear the name, image, or logo of any public figure or political party,
23 and shall only use the official branding of the implementing agencies. Disbursement shall be
24 handled solely by authorized personnel of DepEd, CHED, or other designated agencies, and
25 not by elected officials or their representatives.

26 Any attempt to politicize the program or influence the selection or release of benefits shall be
27 punishable under applicable laws, including the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act and the
28 Omnibus Election Code.

29 The implementing agencies shall establish clear reporting and grievance mechanisms to detect
30 and address violations of this section.

31
32 **SEC. 14. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional,
33 the remainder of this Act not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

1 **SEC. 15. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules, and
2 regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed ,
3 amended, or modified accordingly.

4

5 **SEC. 16. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
6 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

7

8 Approved,