

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10059



Introduced by: Kababaihan Kabalikatan para sa Kapakanan at Kaunlaran ng Bayan (4K) Party-list
Representative Iris Marie D. Montes

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SAFE SCHOOLS SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM, STRENGTHENING PREVENTION OF SCHOOL VIOLENCE, ACTIVE ASSAILANT INCIDENTS, AND OTHER SECURITY THREATS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and mandates the State to promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It likewise guarantees the right of every Filipino to quality education and imposes upon the State the duty to make schools places where learning, growth, and human development may flourish in safety and dignity.

For generations, schools have been regarded as sanctuaries of learning. Parents entrust to them what they hold most precious—their children. Teachers dedicate their lives to shaping future citizens. Students enter school grounds not merely to acquire knowledge, but to build their aspirations and prepare for the future.

Recent events, however, have reminded us that safety can no longer be taken for granted.

The nation was deeply shaken by the tragic shooting incident at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City, where students lost their lives and others sustained injuries after firearms were brought into a school campus. The incident exposed serious gaps in school security, emergency preparedness, threat assessment, and crisis response.

Equally alarming are other recent incidents involving violence within educational institutions. In Cavite, several elementary students were injured after being attacked with a knife inside a classroom. In another incident, a senior high school student sustained multiple stab wounds following a violent altercation on school premises. These events demonstrate that threats to school safety are not limited to firearms alone. Bladed weapons, physical assaults, gang-related violence, bullying-related retaliation, and other forms of aggression can likewise place students, teachers, and school personnel in grave danger.

While such incidents remain relatively uncommon in the Philippines, even one act of violence is one too many when the lives of children are at stake. The consequences extend far beyond the immediate victims. Entire communities are traumatized. Families suffer irreparable loss. Students carry fear into classrooms that should instead inspire hope and learning.

At present, there is no comprehensive national framework establishing minimum standards for school security, violence prevention, emergency preparedness, threat assessment, active-threat response, and post-incident recovery. Existing measures vary widely among schools and localities, resulting in uneven levels of protection for Filipino learners.

Experience from other countries has shown that school safety is not achieved through reaction alone. Effective protection requires prevention, preparedness, coordination, and early intervention. Schools must be equipped with clear safety protocols, emergency operations plans, threat-reporting systems, mental health support mechanisms, crisis response teams, and regular safety drills designed to prepare students and personnel for emergencies while preventing violence before it occurs.

This proposed School Safety and Preparedness Act seeks to establish a comprehensive and proactive approach to campus safety nationwide. It aims to institutionalize school emergency preparedness programs, strengthen coordination among educational institutions, law enforcement agencies, local governments, and health authorities, improve physical security measures, enhance behavioral threat assessment and mental health interventions, and ensure that schools are prepared to respond effectively to acts of violence and other emergencies.

This measure does not seek to create fear within schools. Rather, it seeks to provide reassurance that every reasonable step has been taken to protect our children. It affirms the principle that every student has the right to learn in an environment free from violence; every parent has the right to expect that schools are prepared for emergencies; and every teacher has the right to work in a safe and secure setting.

The safety of our learners cannot wait until another tragedy compels action. The State must act before lives are lost, not after.

For these reasons, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


IRIS MARIE D. MONTES
Kababaihan Kabalikatan para sa Kapakanan
at Kaunlaran ng Bayan (4K) Party-list

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PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM, STRENGTHENING PREVENTION OF SCHOOL
VIOLENCE, ACTIVE ASSAILANT INCIDENTS, AND OTHER SECURITY
THREATS, 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 "Safe Schools Security and Emergency Preparedness Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — The State recognizes the right of every learner, teacher, and school personnel to study and work in a safe and secure educational environment.

Pursuant to Article II, Section 13 and Article XIV of the Constitution, the State shall protect children and youth from violence, criminal acts, terrorism, armed attacks, and other threats that may disrupt education or endanger life.

Towards this end, the State shall institutionalize a comprehensive framework for preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from school security incidents and emergencies.

SEC. 3. *National School Security Program.* — There is hereby established a National School Security Program under the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA), the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), local government units, and other relevant agencies.

SEC. 4. *School Security Risk Assessments.* — All public and private educational institutions shall conduct periodic security risk assessments covering:

- (a) Unauthorized access points;
- (b) Campus vulnerabilities;

- (c) Violence and crime risks;
- (d) Terrorism-related threats;
- (e) Bomb threats;
- (f) Emergency communications systems;
- (g) Active assailant scenarios; and
- (h) Other security threats identified by authorities.

SEC. 5. *School Emergency Operations Plan.* — Every educational institution shall maintain an Emergency Operations Plan that shall include:

- (a) Lockdown procedures;
- (b) Shelter-in-place protocols;
- (c) Evacuation procedures;
- (d) Reunification procedures for students and families;
- (e) Coordination mechanisms with emergency responders;
- (f) Medical emergency response protocols;
- (g) Crisis communication procedures; and
- (h) Recovery and continuity-of-learning measures.

SEC. 6. *Behavioral Threat Assessment Teams.* — All schools shall establish Behavioral Threat Assessment Teams composed of school administrators, guidance counselors, mental health professionals, teachers, and security personnel.

The Team shall identify, assess, and manage credible threats of violence while ensuring due process, confidentiality, and the protection of civil liberties.

SEC. 7. *Anonymous Reporting Systems.* — Educational institutions shall establish confidential and anonymous reporting mechanisms through hotlines, websites, mobile applications, or other means through which students, teachers, parents, and community members may report:

- (a) Threats of violence;
- (b) Possession of firearms or weapons;
- (c) Planned attacks;
- (d) Bullying and harassment likely to escalate into violence;

- (e) Suspicious activities; and
- (f) Other security concerns.

SEC. 8. *Active Assailant Preparedness Training.* — All schools shall conduct annual training programs for school personnel on:

- (a) Active assailant response;
- (b) Lockdown procedures;
- (c) Emergency communications;
- (d) Trauma-informed response;
- (e) First aid and casualty care; and
- (f) Incident command protocols.

SEC. 9. *Emergency Drills.* — All schools shall conduct at least one active assailant or armed intrusion drill annually, in addition to existing earthquake and fire drills.

Such drills shall be age-appropriate, trauma-informed, and designed to avoid psychological harm to learners.

SEC. 10. *School Security Infrastructure.* — Subject to appropriations, schools shall progressively establish:

- (a) Controlled entry points;
- (b) Emergency alarm systems;
- (c) Public-address systems;
- (d) Security cameras in common areas;
- (e) Emergency communications equipment;
- (f) Exterior lighting; and
- (g) Other reasonable security measures.

SEC. 11. *Firearms and Weapons Prohibition.* — No firearm, explosive, deadly weapon, or similar instrument shall be brought into school premises except by duly authorized law enforcement personnel acting within the scope of official duties.

SEC. 12. *Mental Health and Violence Prevention Programs.* — Schools shall implement programs promoting mental health, conflict resolution, anti-bullying initiatives, violence prevention, and early intervention for at-risk individuals.

SEC. 13. *Inter-Agency School Safety Coordination Councils.* — Every province, city, and municipality shall establish a School Safety Coordination Council composed of representatives from the LGU, PNP, BFP, schools, parent associations, and youth organizations.

The Council shall coordinate preparedness, intelligence sharing, and emergency response activities.

SEC. 14. *Administrative Liability.* — Any school official who willfully fails to implement mandatory security planning, training, or emergency preparedness requirements under this Act shall be subject to appropriate administrative sanctions.

SEC. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within one hundred twenty (120) days from effectivity, DepEd, CHED, DILG, PNP, NBI, and other concerned agencies shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations.

SEC. 16. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 17. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,