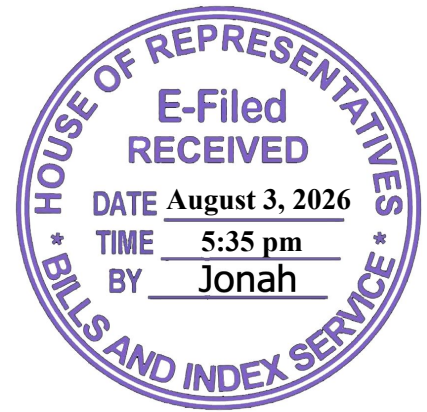




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10543



Introduced by Rep. ROBERT NAZAL

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SAFE, SECURE, RESILIENT, AND SUPPORTIVE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, INSTITUTIONALIZING SCHOOL-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION, THREAT ASSESSMENT, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, CRISIS RESPONSE, RECOVERY, MENTAL HEALTH EARLY INTERVENTION, AND CONFIDENTIAL SAFETY REPORTING MECHANISMS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Schools must be places of learning, development, and security. Yet verified data show that bullying remains a serious concern. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Programme for International Student Assessment 2022 country note for the Philippines, 43% of participating girls and 53% of participating boys reported experiencing acts of bullying at least a few times a month. The Department of Education recorded 2,500 bullying cases in the National Capital Region in School Year 2024–2025, up from 2,268 the previous school year. These are reported incidents only, but they demonstrate the continuing need for stronger prevention, reporting, response, and accountability systems.

While Republic Act No. 10627 (Anti-Bullying Act of 2013) mandates school anti-bullying policies, disciplinary measures, and law enforcement referrals, it lacks a unified national framework for broader safety threats across basic, higher, and technical-vocational institutions. School safety demands a proactive approach encompassing prevention, threat assessment, emergency medical response, prompt parental notification, evidence preservation, mental health support, recovery, and inter-agency coordination. Institutional delays or lack of accountability are unacceptable when student safety is compromised.

Constitutional mandates under Article II, Section 13 (youth well-being), Article XIV, Sections 1 and 4 (quality education and institutional regulation), and Article XV, Section 3 (child protection) provide clear grounds for legislation. Reinforced by RA No. 10121 (disaster reduction), RA No. 11036 (mental health), and RA No. 12080 (school mental health), this measure consolidates these duties into one framework.

The principal justifications and effects of the measure are as follows:

1. Establishes a unified National Safe Schools Framework covering prevention, protection, preparedness, response, and recovery across public and private basic, higher, and technical-vocational education institutions, jointly formulated by DepEd, CHED, and TESDA.
2. Requires covered schools to conduct annual safety risk assessments and maintain an updated School Safety and Emergency Preparedness Plan addressing crisis management, medical response, inclusive arrangements, and learning continuity.
3. Mandates behavior-based, multidisciplinary Threat Assessment and Intervention Teams; assessments do not determine liability, and protective traits or lawful conduct cannot solely define dangerousness.
4. Creates confidential reporting channels, bars retaliation against good-faith whistleblowers, and prevents penalties based strictly on unverified anonymous claims.
5. Compels immediate protection, medical checks, evidence tracking, victim care, and child-sensitive probes for serious violence, requiring parent notification within fifteen minutes of school awareness.
6. Prohibits leaving injured learners unattended or unassessed, requires formal medical transfer, mandates screening for hidden head trauma, and explicitly bans using token corrective activities as the sole institutional remedy.
7. Prohibits tampering with relevant incident records under legal notice, and subjects severe violations—including fatalities, weapon use, and cover-ups—to external reviews by education authorities.

Victims and their parents or guardians must be informed of available referral mechanisms, consulted on safety measures, informed of the general status of the investigation subject to privacy and due-process limitations, and allowed to submit evidence and concerns, with reasonable accommodation for learners with disabilities or special educational needs. Implementation will be coordinated through a National Safe Schools Council and supported by a Safe Schools Innovation and Assistance Fund.

A school cannot provide quality education when warning signs are ignored, parents are informed too late, injured learners are not immediately assessed, or serious violence is reduced to nominal discipline.

Ang ligtas na paaralan ay institusyong handang umiwas sa panganib, tumugon agad, at managot sa bawat batang ipinagkatiwala rito.

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



ROBERT NAZAL
Representative

1
2 Republic of the Philippines
3 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
4 Quezon City, Metro Manila
5

6
7 **TWENTIETH CONGRESS**
8 Second Regular Session
9

10 **HOUSE BILL NO. 10543**
11

12
13 **Introduced by Rep. ROBERT NAZAL**
14
15

16 **AN ACT**
17 **ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SAFE,**
18 **SECURE, RESILIENT, AND SUPPORTIVE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS,**
19 **INSTITUTIONALIZING SCHOOL-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION, THREAT**
20 **ASSESSMENT, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, CRISIS RESPONSE,**
21 **RECOVERY, MENTAL HEALTH EARLY INTERVENTION, AND CONFIDENTIAL**
22 **SAFETY REPORTING MECHANISMS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND**
23 **FOR OTHER PURPOSES**
24

25 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
26 *Congress assembled:*
27

28 **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Safe Schools and
29 Violence Prevention Act of 2026.”
30

31 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
32 protect the right of every learner, teacher, school personnel, parent, and lawful visitor
33 to a safe, secure, inclusive, child-sensitive, and resilient educational environment.
34

35 The State recognizes that school safety requires an integrated and preventive
36 approach that addresses the full continuum of risks affecting educational institutions,
37 including violence, bullying, cyberbullying, threats, unauthorized weapons, dangerous
38 intrusions, hostage incidents, terrorism, fires, earthquakes, severe weather events,
39 chemical and biological hazards, public health emergencies, and other natural or
40 human-induced emergencies.
41

1 The State shall promote a whole-of-school and whole-of-community approach
2 founded on prevention, protection, preparedness, coordinated response, and
3 recovery. Security measures shall be proportionate to identified risks and shall be
4 implemented consistently with child protection, mental health, disability inclusion, data
5 privacy, due process, and the right to education.

6
7 Nothing in this Act shall be construed as authorizing the indiscriminate
8 surveillance, profiling, stigmatization, or punitive treatment of learners solely on the
9 basis of disability, mental health condition, academic performance, family
10 circumstances, religion, ethnicity, political belief, social status, or other protected
11 characteristic.

12
13 **Sec. 3. Objectives.** – This Act shall have the following objectives:

14 (a) Establish minimum national standards for school safety, security,
15 emergency preparedness, crisis response, and post-incident recovery;

16 (b) Institutionalize preventive systems for identifying, assessing, and
17 addressing credible threats and concerning behavior before such conduct escalates
18 into violence or serious harm;

19 (c) Strengthen the capacity of educational institutions to respond to armed
20 attacks, dangerous intrusions, bomb threats, hostage incidents, fires, disasters,
21 hazardous-material incidents, and other emergencies;

22 (d) Improve access to age-appropriate, culturally responsive, and evidence-
23 informed mental health and psychosocial support services;

24 (e) Establish safe, confidential, accessible, and accountable channels for
25 reporting threats, weapons, bullying, planned attacks, self-harm risks, and other
26 serious safety concerns;

27 (f) Require coordinated action among educational institutions, law-enforcement
28 agencies, emergency responders, health authorities, social-welfare offices, local
29 government units, parents, learners, and communities;

30 (g) Promote risk-based improvements in school infrastructure, access control,
31 emergency communication, and campus security;

32 (h) Establish reliable national data for evidence-based school safety policies
33 while protecting personal information and the rights of children; and

34 (i) Provide mechanisms for continuity of learning, family reunification, trauma-
35 informed recovery, and support for affected learners and personnel after emergencies.

36
37 (j) Establish time-bound, documented, and enforceable duties for the medical
38 response, parent notification, evidence preservation, external reporting, victim
39 protection, and institutional review of serious school violence.

40
41 **Sec. 4. Coverage.** – This Act shall apply to:

42 (a) All public and private kindergarten, elementary, junior high school, and
43 senior high school institutions;

- 1 (b) State universities and colleges, local universities and colleges, and private
2 higher educational institutions;
- 3 (c) Public and private technical-vocational institutions and training centers;
- 4 (d) Philippine schools overseas that are recognized or regulated by the
5 Philippine Government, subject to applicable host-country laws; and
- 6 (e) Other educational or training institutions that may be identified in the
7 implementing rules and regulations.

8

9 Home-based learning arrangements shall be covered only to the extent
10 applicable to digital safety, confidential reporting, learner protection, emergency
11 communication, and institutional responsibilities under this Act.

12

13 **Sec. 5. Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act:

14 (a) “Behavioral intervention” refers to a structured, non-punitive, and
15 individualized process for addressing conduct, circumstances, or needs that may
16 place a person or the school community at risk;

17 (b) “Credible threat” refers to a communication, act, plan, or pattern of conduct
18 that, based on reasonably available information and an objective assessment,
19 indicates a genuine possibility of violence, serious injury, self-harm, or other grave
20 danger;

21 (c) “Crisis response team” refers to the trained school-based group responsible
22 for coordinating immediate action during and after an emergency;

23 (d) “Educational institution” or “school” refers to any institution covered under
24 Sec. 4 of this Act;

25 (e) “Emergency” refers to an actual or imminent event that threatens life, health,
26 safety, property, school operations, or continuity of education, whether arising from
27 natural or human-induced causes;

28 (f) “Family reunification” refers to the controlled and documented process of
29 releasing learners to authorized parents, guardians, or responsible adults following an
30 emergency;

31 (g) “Mental health and psychosocial support” refers to services and
32 interventions that protect or promote psychosocial well-being and address mental
33 health needs before, during, and after emergencies;

34 (h) “School safety” refers to the policies, systems, infrastructure, personnel,
35 programs, and practices intended to protect members of the school community from
36 violence, injury, abuse, disasters, emergencies, and other serious risks;

37 (i) “Threat assessment” refers to a fact-based and multidisciplinary process for
38 determining whether a reported threat or concerning behavior presents a risk of harm
39 and identifying appropriate protective, supportive, administrative, or lawful
40 interventions;

41 (j) “Threat assessment and intervention team” refers to the multidisciplinary
42 school-based or cluster-based body constituted under this Act to assess and manage
43 reported threats or concerning behavior; and

1 (k) "Trauma-informed approach" refers to a manner of providing services that
2 recognizes the effects of trauma, avoids unnecessary retraumatization, and supports
3 safety, dignity, recovery, and continued participation in education.

4 (l) "Head injury" refers to any actual or suspected injury to the scalp, skull, face,
5 or brain caused by a blow, impact, fall, strangulation, or other force, including a
6 suspected concussion, whether or not visible external injury is present;

7 (m) "Responsible school official" refers to the school head, teacher, adviser,
8 coach, safety officer, health personnel, security personnel, child-protection officer, or
9 any employee or authorized agent who has actual knowledge of a safety incident or is
10 charged with receiving or acting upon such information;

11 (n) "Serious school violence" refers to any intentional or reckless act committed
12 within school custody, supervision, authority, or a school-related activity that:

13 (1) causes or creates a substantial risk of death, serious bodily injury,
14 concussion, head trauma, fracture, loss of consciousness, or permanent impairment;

15 (2) involves the use of a weapon, dangerous object, hard object, blunt
16 instrument, or any ordinary object used in a manner capable of causing serious injury;

17 (3) involves strangulation, kicking or striking the head, repeated blows, group
18 assault, sexual violence, extortion accompanied by force, or restraint of the victim;

19 (4) requires emergency medical assessment, hospitalization, diagnostic
20 imaging, or continuing medical treatment; or

21 (5) constitutes conduct that may amount to a criminal offense under existing
22 law; and

23 (o) "Victim safety and support plan" refers to an individualized and documented
24 set of immediate and continuing measures intended to protect an affected learner from
25 further harm, retaliation, intimidation, unnecessary displacement, or retraumatization
26 and to facilitate medical, psychosocial, academic, and legal support.

27
28 **Sec. 6. National Safe Schools Framework.** – The Department of Education, in
29 coordination with the Commission on Higher Education and the Technical Education
30 and Skills Development Authority, shall formulate and periodically update a National
31 Safe Schools Framework.

32
33 The Framework shall establish nationally consistent but risk-based standards
34 covering the following pillars:

35 (a) Prevention, including child protection, anti-bullying measures, mental health
36 support, behavioral intervention, threat assessment, and safe reporting;

37 (b) Protection, including campus access control, school infrastructure,
38 emergency communication, visitor management, and security personnel standards;

39 (c) Preparedness, including risk assessment, emergency planning, drills,
40 training, continuity arrangements, and coordination with responders;

41 (d) Response, including incident command, communication, emergency
42 medical action, evacuation, lockdown, shelter-in-place, accounting for learners and
43 personnel, and family reunification; and

44 (e) Recovery, including psychosocial support, victim assistance, continuity of
45 learning, facility restoration, after-action review, and institutional improvement.

1 The Framework shall be aligned with existing disaster risk reduction and
2 management, child protection, public health, mental health, privacy, building safety,
3 fire safety, and accessibility laws, rules, and standards.
4

5 **Sec. 7. School Safety and Emergency Preparedness Plan.** – Every educational
6 institution shall prepare, maintain, implement, and annually review a School Safety
7 and Emergency Preparedness Plan appropriate to its size, location, learner
8 population, facilities, identified hazards, available resources, and level of risk.
9

10 The Plan shall include:

- 11 (a) A school safety profile and annual risk and vulnerability assessment;
- 12 (b) Procedures for preventing, identifying, reporting, and responding to threats
13 and emergencies;
- 14 (c) Incident command and succession arrangements;
- 15 (d) Evacuation, lockdown, shelter-in-place, emergency dismissal, and family
16 reunification protocols;
- 17 (e) Procedures for armed attacks, dangerous intrusions, hostage situations,
18 bomb threats, suspicious packages, fires, earthquakes, severe weather, chemical or
19 biological hazards, disease outbreaks, and other identified risks;
- 20 (f) Emergency communication and redundant notification systems;
- 21 (g) Procedures for accounting for learners, personnel, contractors, and visitors;
- 22 (h) Emergency medical assistance and coordination with hospitals, emergency
23 medical services, and local health authorities;
- 24 (i) Measures for learners and personnel with disabilities, medical conditions,
25 language barriers, or other access and functional needs;
- 26 (j) Continuity-of-learning and temporary relocation arrangements;
- 27 (k) Trauma-informed recovery and psychosocial support measures;
- 28 (l) Data protection and confidentiality protocols;
- 29 (m) Assigned responsibilities of school officials and personnel;
- 30 (n) Contact information and coordination arrangements with local authorities
31 and emergency responders; and
- 32 (o) A schedule for training, drills, evaluation, and corrective action.
33

34 Private educational institutions may integrate the Plan into their existing
35 institutional safety, business continuity, security, and disaster-management systems,
36 provided that the minimum standards under this Act are satisfied.
37

38 **Sec. 8. Annual School Safety Risk Assessment.** – Every educational institution
39 shall conduct at least one comprehensive safety risk assessment each school year.

40 The assessment shall consider:

- 41 (a) Natural and human-induced hazards;
- 42 (b) Campus design, perimeter, entrances, exits, lighting, visibility, and
43 emergency access;

1 (c) Historical incidents of violence, bullying, threats, accidents, and
2 emergencies;

3 (d) Emergency communication capability;

4 (e) Capacity of personnel to respond to emergencies;

5 (f) Proximity and response time of police, fire, medical, rescue, and disaster-
6 management units;

7 (g) Online and technology-related threats affecting the school community;

8 (h) Particular vulnerabilities of young children, persons with disabilities,
9 indigenous learners, geographically isolated communities, and other sectors requiring
10 additional protection; and

11 (i) Other relevant local circumstances.

12
13 The assessment shall be conducted with the participation of school
14 administrators, teachers, non-teaching personnel, learners appropriate to their age
15 and maturity, parents or guardians, local government representatives, and, where
16 practicable, the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, local disaster risk
17 reduction and management office, local health office, and other relevant agencies.

18
19 Detailed vulnerability information that could compromise campus security shall
20 be treated as restricted information and shall not be publicly disclosed, except as
21 required by law or to persons with an official need to know.

22
23 **Sec. 9. *Threat Assessment and Intervention Teams.*** – Every educational
24 institution shall establish a multidisciplinary Threat Assessment and Intervention
25 Team.

26
27 Schools with limited personnel may form a cluster-based team under the
28 supervision of the appropriate schools division office, local government unit, governing
29 board, higher educational institution, or technical-vocational authority.

30
31 The Team shall, as appropriate, include:

32 (a) The school head or an authorized senior official;

33 (b) A guidance counselor, guidance associate, school psychologist, or qualified
34 mental health professional;

35 (c) A child protection or safeguarding officer;

36 (d) A school health professional, where available;

37 (e) A teacher or faculty representative;

38 (f) A school security or safety officer;

39 (g) A social worker or representative of the local social welfare and
40 development office, when necessary;

41 (h) A representative of the Philippine National Police or other relevant public
42 safety agency, when warranted by the nature of the threat; and

43 (i) Other professionals whose expertise is necessary for a particular case.

1 The Team shall receive, document, screen, assess, and manage reports
2 involving credible threats, planned attacks, unauthorized weapons, severe bullying,
3 stalking, online threats, violent ideation accompanied by warning behavior, serious
4 behavioral deterioration, self-harm indicators, or other conduct that may present a
5 substantial risk.

6
7 Threat assessment shall not be based solely on a learner's mental health
8 diagnosis, disability, social background, expressive activity, unpopular opinion, or
9 lawful conduct. The Team shall use objective, behavior-based, and context-sensitive
10 criteria.

11
12 Sec. 10. ***Threat Assessment Procedures and Due Process.*** – The
13 appropriate education agencies shall establish uniform procedures and minimum
14 standards for threat assessment and intervention.

15
16 Such procedures shall include:

- 17 (a) Prompt initial screening of reports;
- 18 (b) Determination of whether an immediate emergency exists;
- 19 (c) Referral to law-enforcement, medical, mental health, child-protection, or
20 social-welfare authorities when warranted;
- 21 (d) Collection and verification of relevant information from lawful and reliable
22 sources;
- 23 (e) Assessment of the nature, specificity, credibility, capability, access to
24 means, imminence, and protective factors associated with the reported threat;
- 25 (f) Preparation of a proportionate safety and intervention plan;
- 26 (g) Periodic review and closure of cases;
- 27 (h) Appropriate notice to and participation of parents or guardians, subject to
28 lawful exceptions involving immediate safety, abuse, neglect, or other circumstances
29 where prior notice may increase risk;
- 30 (i) Protection of confidential and privileged information;
- 31 (j) Documentation of the factual basis for material decisions; and
- 32 (k) Procedures for administrative review and correction of materially inaccurate
33 records.

34
35 A threat assessment shall be preventive and protective in character and shall
36 not, by itself, constitute a finding of criminal or administrative liability. Disciplinary
37 proceedings shall remain subject to applicable laws, institutional rules, notice, and
38 opportunity to be heard.

39
40 Sec. 11. ***Behavioral Intervention and Support.*** – When a safety concern does
41 not require immediate law-enforcement action, the school shall prioritize proportionate
42 and supportive interventions, which may include:

- 43 (a) Counseling and psychosocial support;
- 44 (b) Parent or guardian conference;

- (c) Referral to a school psychologist, guidance counselor, physician, social worker, or qualified mental health professional;
- (d) Safety planning and increased supervision;
- (e) Peer, family, or community support;
- (f) Behavioral agreements consistent with learner rights;
- (g) Restorative interventions where appropriate and voluntarily accepted by affected parties;
- (h) Academic, social, disability-related, or family support;
- (i) Temporary adjustment of schedules, activities, or campus access when necessary and lawful;
- (j) Reintegration planning following suspension, hospitalization, crisis intervention, or prolonged absence; and
- (k) Other evidence-informed interventions appropriate to the circumstances.

No learner shall be subjected to involuntary psychological or psychiatric examination except as authorized by law or ordered by a competent authority. Refusal to undergo a voluntary mental health assessment shall not, by itself, establish that a person poses a threat.

Sec. 12. *Strengthening Mental Health and Psychosocial Support.* – Educational institutions shall integrate age-appropriate mental health promotion, early identification, referral, crisis intervention, suicide prevention, trauma response, and psychosocial support into their school safety programs.

The Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority shall:

- (a) Strengthen the deployment, availability, and referral networks of guidance counselors, school psychologists, social workers, nurses, and other qualified professionals;
- (b) Develop cluster-based or shared-service arrangements for institutions that lack permanent mental health personnel;
- (c) Establish referral protocols with Department of Health facilities, local health offices, hospitals, mental health professionals, and social welfare offices;
- (d) Train designated school personnel in psychological first aid, recognition of warning signs, lawful referral procedures, and crisis response;
- (e) Provide protocols for responding to self-harm and suicide risk without unnecessary public disclosure or stigmatization; and
- (f) Establish post-crisis support for affected learners, families, teachers, responders, and school personnel.

Mental health records and communications shall be handled in accordance with applicable confidentiality, privacy, and professional-privilege requirements.

1 **Sec. 13. Strengthening Anti-Bullying and Violence Prevention Measures.** –
2 Educational institutions shall integrate their obligations under Republic Act No. 10627,
3 otherwise known as the “Anti-Bullying Act of 2013,” and other child-protection laws
4 into the School Safety and Emergency Preparedness Plan.

5
6 School policies shall provide for:
7 (a) Prevention and response to physical, verbal, social, sexual, psychological,
8 and technology-facilitated bullying;
9 (b) Accessible and confidential reporting mechanisms;
10 (c) Prompt assessment of reported conduct;
11 (d) A graduated response framework distinguishing ordinary conflict or minor
12 misconduct, repeated or severe bullying, and serious school violence;
13 (e) Reasonable and definite timelines for protective, medical, investigative,
14 corrective, and reporting action;
15 (f) Support for victims, witnesses, and persons accused of misconduct;
16 (g) Protection against retaliation;
17 (h) Immediate parent or guardian notification in accordance with this Act;
18 (i) Referral of cases involving possible criminal conduct, abuse, exploitation, or
19 serious danger to the proper authorities;
20 (j) Immediate separation, no-contact directives, increased supervision, and
21 other interim protective measures when necessary;
22 (k) Proportionate disciplinary, corrective, and rehabilitative measures based on
23 the gravity of the act, injury or risk created, use of a weapon or dangerous object,
24 targeting of a vital body part, prior related conduct, planning, repetition, group
25 participation, concealment, retaliation, and the age, maturity, needs, and
26 circumstances of the learner concerned; and
27 (l) Restorative practices only when appropriate, safe, voluntary, and consistent
28 with the rights and welfare of affected persons.

29
30 Community chores, cleaning duties, written apologies, or similar minor
31 corrective activities shall not constitute the sole institutional response to serious school
32 violence.

33
34 Disciplinary action shall be separate from and shall not replace medical
35 response, victim safety planning, behavioral intervention, parent notification, authority
36 referral, psychosocial support, evidence preservation, or institutional corrective action.

37
38 Nothing in this Act shall diminish the rights, remedies, and duties established
39 under existing anti-bullying and child-protection laws.

40 **Sec. 14. National School Safety Reporting System.** – The Department of
41 Education, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education, Technical
42 Education and Skills Development Authority, Department of Information and
43 Communications Technology, Department of the Interior and Local Government,
44 Philippine National Police, and other relevant agencies, shall establish a National
45 School Safety Reporting System.

1 The System shall provide confidential and accessible channels, which may
2 include a nationwide hotline, text-messaging facility, secure website, mobile
3 application, and school-based reporting channels, through which learners, parents,
4 teachers, personnel, and community members may report:

- 5 (a) Credible threats or planned attacks;
- 6 (b) Possession or planned introduction of weapons or dangerous materials into
7 a school;
- 8 (c) Bomb threats, terroristic threats, or suspicious activity;
- 9 (d) Severe bullying, stalking, extortion, gang-related activity, or targeted
10 violence;
- 11 (e) Online threats or communications indicating an identifiable risk to the school
12 community;
- 13 (f) Serious self-harm or suicide risk;
- 14 (g) Drug-related activity presenting an immediate school safety risk; and
- 15 (h) Other serious threats to life, safety, or school security.

16
17 The System shall permit anonymous reporting but shall clearly advise users
18 that knowingly false or malicious reports may result in liability under existing laws and
19 school rules.

20
21 Sec. 15. **Handling of Safety Reports.** – Reports received through the National
22 School Safety Reporting System shall be subject to uniform triage, referral,
23 documentation, and response protocols.

24
25 Reports indicating an imminent danger to life or safety shall be immediately
26 transmitted to the appropriate emergency, law-enforcement, health, or child-protection
27 authority and to the affected educational institution.

28 Reports that do not indicate an imminent emergency shall be referred to the
29 appropriate school official, threat assessment team, child-protection committee,
30 guidance office, or competent government agency.

31
32 No adverse action shall be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous or
33 unverified report. Material allegations shall be assessed and corroborated to the extent
34 reasonably practicable before disciplinary or other adverse action is imposed, except
35 when temporary protective measures are necessary to address an immediate and
36 substantial risk.

37
38 Every educational institution shall report serious school violence to the
39 appropriate schools division office or regulatory authority within twenty-four (24) hours
40 from the time a responsible school official acquires actual knowledge of the incident.

1 When the facts reasonably indicate the possible commission of an offense,
2 child abuse, exploitation, or serious danger to a learner, the school shall immediately
3 refer the matter to the appropriate law-enforcement, child-protection, health, or social-
4 welfare authority. The school shall report the material facts and shall not be required
5 to make a final determination of criminal liability.
6

7 Internal settlement, apology, parental agreement, school discipline, withdrawal
8 of a complaint, or restorative intervention shall not extinguish or substitute for a
9 reporting duty imposed by law.
10

11 **Sec. 16. *Protection of Reporters and Prohibition Against Retaliation.*** – A
12 person who, in good faith, reports a safety concern, participates in an assessment,
13 provides relevant information, or seeks emergency assistance shall be protected
14 against retaliation, intimidation, harassment, discrimination, or disciplinary action
15 arising solely from such good-faith participation.
16

17 The identity of a confidential reporter shall not be disclosed except:
18 (a) With the reporter's consent;
19 (b) When disclosure is necessary to address an imminent danger;
20 (c) When required by a lawful order of a court or competent authority;
21 (d) When necessary for the investigation or prosecution of an offense, subject
22 to applicable protective measures; or
23 (e) In other circumstances expressly authorized by law.
24

25 The protection under this section shall not apply to a person who knowingly
26 submits a false report or fabricates material evidence.
27

28 **Sec. 17. *Minimum Safe School Infrastructure Standards.*** – The Department
29 of Education, Department of Public Works and Highways, Commission on Higher
30 Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Bureau of Fire
31 Protection, National Commission on Disability Affairs, and other relevant agencies
32 shall formulate risk-based minimum standards for safe school infrastructure.
33

34 The standards shall consider:
35 (a) Clearly identified and reasonably controlled points of entry during school
36 hours;
37 (b) Safe, accessible, and unobstructed emergency exits;
38 (c) Functional locks and emergency securing mechanisms that allow lawful
39 emergency egress;
40 (d) Adequate lighting, visibility, signage, and wayfinding;
41 (e) Perimeter controls appropriate to the location and risk profile;
42 (f) Designated locations for emergency assembly, evacuation, shelter-in-place,
43 and family reunification;
44 (g) Emergency power, communication, alarms, and public-address capability
45 where practicable;

1 (h) Safe rooms or protected areas when justified by a site-specific risk
2 assessment;

3 (i) Fire safety, structural safety, accessibility, sanitation, ventilation, and
4 emergency medical considerations;

5 (j) Access routes for police, fire, rescue, and medical responders; and

6 (k) Safe classroom and common-area design.
7

8 Standards shall distinguish among new construction, major renovation, and
9 existing facilities. Compliance schedules for existing facilities shall be reasonable,
10 phased, risk-based, and subject to available appropriations and lawful regulatory
11 requirements.
12

13 Sec. 18. **Visitor and Campus Access Management.** – Every educational
14 institution shall adopt written visitor and campus access procedures appropriate to its
15 risk profile.
16

17 Such procedures shall include:

18 (a) Designated entrances during regular operating hours;

19 (b) Visitor registration and verification of identity;

20 (c) Issuance and visible use of visitor identification while inside restricted areas;

21 (d) Recording of the purpose, destination, and duration of visits;

22 (e) Procedures for deliveries, contractors, service providers, volunteers, and
23 event participants;

24 (f) Restrictions on access to classrooms, learner activity areas, records rooms,
25 and other sensitive locations;

26 (g) Procedures for denying or terminating access when necessary to protect
27 safety; and

28 (h) Emergency exceptions that do not delay rescue, medical care, law-
29 enforcement action, or evacuation.
30

31 Visitor information shall be collected, retained, accessed, and disposed of in
32 accordance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012 and applicable regulations.
33

34 Sec. 19. **Closed-Circuit Television and Security Technology.** – Schools may
35 install and operate closed-circuit television systems and other lawful security
36 technologies when justified by a risk assessment and subject to applicable privacy,
37 child-protection, cybersecurity, procurement, and data-retention requirements.
38

39 Cameras shall not be installed in toilets, changing rooms, counseling rooms,
40 medical examination areas, or other locations where persons have a reasonable
41 expectation of privacy.
42

43 Schools using security technology shall adopt written policies governing:

44 (a) The legitimate purpose and scope of monitoring;

- (b) Placement and visibility of devices;
- (c) Authorized access to recordings and data;
- (d) Retention and secure disposal;
- (e) Disclosure to law-enforcement or other persons;
- (f) Cybersecurity controls;
- (g) Notice to the school community; and
- (h) Procedures for complaints, access requests, and investigation of misuse.

Nothing in this Act shall authorize automated facial recognition, biometric mass surveillance, predictive profiling, or artificial intelligence-based disciplinary decision-making without a separate lawful basis and safeguards prescribed by law.

Sec. 20. *School Security Personnel.* – School security personnel shall be properly licensed, screened, and trained in accordance with applicable law.

The Philippine National Police, in coordination with the appropriate education agencies and relevant security industry regulators, shall develop specialized school-security training modules covering:

- (a) Child protection and child-sensitive conduct;
- (b) De-escalation and conflict management;
- (c) Recognition and reporting of threats;
- (d) Emergency response and incident command;
- (e) Coordination with police, fire, rescue, and medical units;
- (f) First aid and basic life support;
- (g) Disability awareness and inclusive emergency assistance;
- (h) Data privacy and confidentiality;
- (i) Lawful search, restraint, and use-of-force standards; and
- (j) Protection of human rights and due process.

Nothing in this Act shall authorize teachers, administrators, guidance personnel, or other school employees to carry firearms by reason only of their school employment. The possession and carrying of firearms shall remain governed by existing laws and regulations.

Sec. 21. *Emergency Communication and Parent Notification.* – Every educational institution shall maintain a reliable and, where practicable, redundant emergency communication system capable of rapidly notifying learners, personnel, parents or guardians, emergency responders, and relevant authorities.

The system may include public-address systems, alarms, text messages, telephone trees, mobile applications, electronic mail, radio communications, social media advisories, and other accessible communication methods.

Emergency communications shall:

- 1 (a) Use clear, accurate, and actionable language;
- 2 (b) Be accessible to persons with disabilities and, where practicable, available
- 3 in locally appropriate languages;
- 4 (c) Avoid the unnecessary disclosure of the identity of minors, victims,
- 5 reporters, or persons under assessment;
- 6 (d) Identify authorized spokespersons;
- 7 (e) Provide verified instructions on evacuation, sheltering, dismissal,
- 8 reunification, medical referral, or other protective action; and
- 9 (f) Include procedures for correcting false or inaccurate information.

10
11 In cases of serious school violence, the school shall initiate contact with the
12 victim's parent or guardian immediately and, unless prevented by circumstances
13 beyond its control, not later than fifteen (15) minutes from the time a responsible school
14 official becomes aware of the incident.

15
16 If the primary contact cannot be reached, the school shall immediately use all
17 alternative contacts and communication channels on record. Every attempted and
18 completed communication shall be time-stamped and documented.

19
20 Parent or guardian notification shall not be postponed pending the completion
21 of an internal investigation, identification of all participants, preparation of an incident
22 report, consultation with school management, or determination of disciplinary liability.

23
24 Schools shall maintain updated emergency contact records, subject to data-
25 protection requirements.

26
27 **Sec. 22. *Emergency Drills, Training, and Exercises.*** – Educational
28 institutions shall conduct regular, age-appropriate, disability-inclusive, and trauma-
29 sensitive drills and exercises based on their identified risks.

30
31 At a minimum, schools shall conduct drills required under existing fire safety,
32 earthquake preparedness, disaster risk reduction, and education regulations.
33 Additional drills involving lockdown, shelter-in-place, family reunification, emergency
34 communication, and other human-induced threats shall be conducted at intervals and
35 in a manner prescribed by the appropriate education agency.

36
37 Drills shall:

- 38 (a) Avoid realistic simulations that may unnecessarily frighten, traumatize, or
- 39 humiliate participants;
- 40 (b) Not involve the use of live ammunition, unannounced simulated gunfire,
- 41 masked assailants, or graphic injury simulation in the presence of learners;
- 42 (c) Include advance notice to personnel and appropriate notice to parents or
- 43 guardians;
- 44 (d) Include reasonable accommodations and individualized assistance for
- 45 persons with disabilities or medical needs;
- 46 (e) Be coordinated with responders when practicable;
- 47 (f) Be followed by an evaluation and corrective-action process; and

1 (g) Minimize disruption to teaching and learning.

2
3 Participation in a drill shall not require a learner to disclose confidential medical
4 or mental health information beyond what is reasonably necessary for safety and
5 accommodation.

6
7 **Sec. 23. *School Crisis Response Teams.*** – Every educational institution shall
8 organize and train a School Crisis Response Team responsible for:

- 9 (a) Activating the School Safety and Emergency Preparedness Plan;
10 (b) Coordinating immediate protective action;
11 (c) Communicating with emergency responders and government authorities;
12 (d) Accounting for learners, personnel, and visitors;
13 (e) Providing first aid and facilitating emergency medical assistance;
14 (f) Managing evacuation, lockdown, shelter-in-place, emergency dismissal, and
15 reunification;
16 (g) Preserving relevant records and evidence without interfering with law-
17 enforcement operations;
18 (h) Coordinating public information;
19 (i) Providing or arranging mental health and psychosocial support;
20 (j) Maintaining continuity of learning and essential school operations; and
21 (k) Conducting post-incident evaluation and recommending corrective
22 measures.

23
24 The Threat Assessment and Intervention Team and the School Crisis
25 Response Team may have overlapping membership but shall maintain distinct
26 preventive and emergency-response functions.

27
28 At least one trained responder capable of providing first aid and initiating
29 emergency medical referral shall be available during regular school hours and school-
30 sponsored activities.

31
32 The Team shall receive annual training on recognition of concussion and head-
33 injury warning signs, first aid and emergency referral, de-escalation and safe
34 separation, parent-notification procedures, preservation of digital and physical
35 evidence, child-sensitive interviewing, mandatory reporting, disability-inclusive
36 response, and anti-retaliation safeguards.

37
38 **Sec. 24. *Mandatory Response to Serious School Violence.*** – Upon actual or
39 constructive knowledge of serious school violence, the educational institution shall
40 immediately:

- 41 (a) Stop the incident and secure the victim;
42 (b) Separate the persons involved and prevent retaliation or further contact;
43 (c) Provide first aid and obtain emergency medical assessment when
44 warranted;
45 (d) Notify the victim's parent or guardian in accordance with Sec. 21 of this Act;

1 (e) Notify the appropriate school safety, child-protection, regulatory, social-
2 welfare, medical, or law-enforcement authorities as required by the nature of the
3 incident;

4 (f) Preserve all relevant physical, documentary, digital, and testimonial
5 evidence;

6 (g) Prepare a written and time-stamped incident chronology;

7 (h) Implement an individualized victim safety and support plan;

8 (i) Conduct a prompt, impartial, and child-sensitive investigation consistent with
9 due process;

10 (j) Impose proportionate disciplinary, corrective, and rehabilitative measures;
11 and

12 (k) Conduct an after-action review to identify and correct supervision, policy,
13 training, communication, or institutional failures.

14
15 Internal disciplinary action, settlement, apology, restorative intervention,
16 withdrawal of complaint, or parental agreement shall not substitute for any medical,
17 reporting, evidence-preservation, child-protection, or regulatory duty imposed by this
18 Act.

19
20 **Sec. 25. Mandatory Medical Response.** – When a learner is struck in the head,
21 loses consciousness, exhibits confusion, vomiting, dizziness, bleeding, impaired
22 speech, unusual behavior, severe pain, or other indications of possible serious injury,
23 the school shall:

24 (a) Immediately remove the learner from further danger;

25 (b) Cause the learner to be assessed by qualified health personnel;

26 (c) Immediately contact emergency medical services or transport the learner to
27 an appropriate health facility when medically indicated;

28 (d) Notify the parent or guardian without delay;

29 (e) Continuously supervise the learner pending transfer to the parent, guardian,
30 or medical personnel; and

31 (f) Document all observations, actions, referrals, and communications.

32
33 The absence of visible external injury shall not be a ground for withholding
34 medical assessment when head trauma is reasonably suspected.

35
36 A learner who may have suffered serious physical injury shall not be left
37 unattended, returned to class, required to continue an activity, or released without
38 appropriate supervision, medical assessment, and documented transfer to an
39 authorized adult or health professional.

40
41 **Sec. 26. Interim Protective and No-Contact Measures.** – Upon receipt of a
42 credible report of serious school violence, the school shall immediately implement
43 proportionate interim protective measures, which may include:

44 (a) Physical separation of the learners involved;

45 (b) No-contact directives;

46 (c) Increased adult supervision;

47 (d) Temporary adjustment of schedules, classes, transportation, or activities;

48 (e) Restriction from identified areas or activities; and

49 (f) Other measures necessary to prevent retaliation or further harm.

1 Interim protective measures shall not be imposed in a manner that
2 unnecessarily burdens, excludes, stigmatizes, or displaces the victim.
3

4 **Sec. 27. Evidence Preservation and Incident Chronology.** – Upon actual or
5 constructive notice of serious school violence, the school shall immediately preserve
6 all reasonably available evidence, including:

- 7 (a) Closed-circuit television recordings;
 - 8 (b) Photographs, audio recordings, and videos;
 - 9 (c) Electronic communications and school-platform records;
 - 10 (d) The object or instrument allegedly used;
 - 11 (e) Attendance, class, duty, activity, and supervision records;
 - 12 (f) Clinic, health, and incident records;
 - 13 (g) Visitor and access logs;
 - 14 (h) Witness identities and initial accounts; and
 - 15 (i) Communication logs concerning parent and authority notification.
- 16

17 No relevant recording or record shall be deleted, overwritten, altered,
18 concealed, or destroyed after the school receives actual or constructive notice of an
19 incident that may result in administrative, civil, child-protection, or criminal
20 proceedings. Such evidence shall be retained for at least one (1) year and, when a
21 proceeding is pending or reasonably anticipated, until final termination thereof, subject
22 to applicable privacy and records-management laws.
23

24 For every serious school violence incident, the school shall prepare a verified
25 chronology stating the time and location of the incident; when each responsible school
26 official became aware of it; when the victim was secured and medically assessed;
27 when the parent or guardian, emergency responders, and authorities were contacted;
28 when evidence was preserved; what interim protective measures were imposed; and
29 the reasons for any material delay.
30

31 The victim's parent or guardian shall be furnished a copy of the chronology,
32 subject to lawful redaction of confidential information concerning other minors.

33 **Sec. 28. Disciplinary, Corrective, and Rehabilitative Response.** – Disciplinary
34 and corrective measures for serious school violence shall be proportionate to the
35 nature and severity of the act, the injury caused or risk created, the use of a weapon
36 or dangerous object, whether the head or another vital body part was targeted,
37 repetition, planning, group participation, concealment, retaliation, prior related
38 conduct, and the age, maturity, needs, and circumstances of the learner concerned.
39

40 The school shall adopt a coordinated response that includes, as appropriate,
41 disciplinary action, behavioral intervention, counseling, parent participation, increased
42 supervision, rehabilitation, reintegration planning, and measures to protect the victim
43 and the school community.
44

45 The exemption of a child from criminal liability under applicable juvenile justice
46 laws shall not relieve the school from its duties to protect the victim, manage the safety
47 risk, provide intervention and rehabilitation, report the incident when required, and
48 prevent recurrence.
49

1 **Sec. 29. *Victim and Parent Participation.*** – The victim and the victim’s parent
2 or guardian shall be:

3 (a) Informed of available medical, psychosocial, administrative, child-
4 protection, and legal referral mechanisms;

5 (b) Consulted regarding safety and support measures;

6 (c) Informed of the general status and disposition of the school’s investigation,
7 subject to privacy and due-process limitations;

8 (d) Informed of measures adopted to prevent retaliation and recurrence; and

9 (e) Allowed to submit relevant evidence and concerns.
10

11 When a learner with disability or special educational needs is involved as a
12 victim, witness, or respondent, the school shall provide reasonable accommodation in
13 reporting, interview, investigation, medical response, safety planning, communication,
14 and psychosocial support. The school shall assess whether the learner was targeted
15 because of disability, communication difficulty, social vulnerability, dependence on
16 others, or reduced capacity to report or resist abuse.
17

18 **Sec. 30. *Restrictions on Mediation and Restorative Practices.*** – Restorative
19 conferencing, mediation, apology meetings, reconciliation activities, or similar
20 processes shall not be required of the victim and shall not be undertaken:

21 (a) Before immediate safety and medical needs are addressed;

22 (b) Where coercion, intimidation, retaliation, serious bodily harm, or a significant
23 power imbalance is present;

24 (c) As a substitute for mandatory reporting, evidence preservation, or formal
25 investigation; or

26 (d) Without the informed and voluntary consent of the victim and the victim’s
27 parent or guardian.
28

29 **Sec. 31. *External Reporting and Independent Review.*** – Every incident
30 involving death, hospitalization, serious bodily injury, diagnostic imaging for suspected
31 head trauma, use of a weapon or dangerous object, sexual violence, or alleged
32 institutional concealment shall be subject to external review by the appropriate
33 education authority.
34

35 The review shall examine the adequacy of supervision, medical response,
36 parent notification, evidence preservation, compliance with anti-bullying and child-
37 protection policies, prior warning signs, disciplinary and rehabilitative measures, victim
38 support, and institutional corrective action.
39

40 The Threat Assessment and Intervention Team shall also determine whether
41 the victim had previously reported bullying, threats, exclusion, or harassment; whether
42 school personnel observed warning behavior; whether the alleged aggressor had prior
43 related incidents; whether the incident occurred during an inadequately supervised
44 activity; whether disability, perceived vulnerability, social isolation, or another
45 protected characteristic contributed to the targeting; and whether earlier intervention
46 could reasonably have reduced the risk.
47

1 **Sec. 32. *Interagency and Local Coordination.*** – Every educational institution
2 shall establish working coordination arrangements with the appropriate local
3 government unit, local disaster risk reduction and management office, Philippine
4 National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, local health office, hospitals, emergency
5 medical services, social welfare and development office, and other relevant
6 authorities.

7
8 Local government units are encouraged to integrate school safety priorities into
9 their local disaster risk reduction and management plans, local development plans,
10 public safety plans, and investment programs.

11 Schools located within the same locality may establish shared emergency
12 communication systems, responder maps, evacuation sites, transportation
13 arrangements, mental health referral networks, and family reunification centers.

14
15 The Department of the Interior and Local Government shall issue guidance to
16 local government units on supporting the implementation of this Act.

17
18 **Sec. 33. *Family Reunification and Emergency Release of Learners.*** –
19 Educational institutions shall maintain written family reunification procedures for
20 emergencies requiring evacuation, relocation, lockdown, or early dismissal.

21
22 Such procedures shall include:

- 23 (a) Designated primary and alternate reunification sites;
24 (b) Verification of persons authorized to receive a learner;
25 (c) Documentation of learner release;
26 (d) Procedures for parents or guardians who cannot immediately reach the
27 reunification site;
28 (e) Protection of learners subject to custody restrictions, protection orders, or
29 safety concerns;
30 (f) Accessible procedures for learners with disabilities or medical needs;
31 (g) Communication with parents or guardians; and
32 (h) Coordination with social welfare, law-enforcement, and child-protection
33 authorities for learners who remain unclaimed or require protective custody.

34
35 **Sec. 34. *Post-Incident Recovery and Continuity of Education.*** – Following a
36 serious emergency, the educational institution, with support from the appropriate
37 government agencies, shall implement a recovery plan that includes:

- 38 (a) Immediate and continuing mental health and psychosocial support;
39 (b) Support and referral services for injured persons, victims, witnesses,
40 bereaved families, responders, and affected personnel;
41 (c) Temporary learning spaces, alternative delivery modes, or school relocation
42 when necessary;
43 (d) Reasonable academic accommodations for affected learners;
44 (e) Employee support and return-to-work arrangements;

- (f) Restoration of facilities, records, communication systems, and essential services;
- (g) Responsible communication with the school community and the public;
- (h) An after-action review conducted without compromising ongoing criminal, administrative, or child-protection proceedings; and
- (i) Revision of safety plans, procedures, training, and infrastructure based on identified lessons.

Recovery measures shall avoid the unnecessary public identification or repeated exposure of victims and minors.

Sec. 35. *Responsible Communication and Media Coordination.* – The appropriate education agencies, in consultation with government media agencies, professional media organizations, child-rights advocates, mental health experts, law-enforcement agencies, and academic institutions, shall develop voluntary guidelines for responsible communication concerning school violence and emergencies.

The guidelines shall promote:

- (a) Accuracy and verification;
- (b) Protection of minors, victims, families, and confidential reporters;
- (c) Avoidance of sensational, graphic, or repetitive presentation that may glorify perpetrators or cause unnecessary harm;
- (d) Dissemination of emergency instructions and verified public-safety information;
- (e) Respect for ongoing investigations and due process;
- (f) Inclusion of mental health, crisis-support, and reporting resources where appropriate; and
- (g) Correction of false information.

Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing prior restraint, censorship, licensing of the press, or punishment of lawful expression.

Sec. 36. *National School Safety Information and Data System.* – The Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority shall maintain interoperable and privacy-protective information systems for aggregated school safety data.

The systems shall collect, subject to uniform definitions and reporting standards, data on:

- (a) Serious violence and physical assaults;
- (b) Threats and planned attacks;
- (c) Unauthorized weapons and dangerous materials;
- (d) Bullying and cyberbullying;
- (e) Self-harm and suicide-related school incidents;

- (f) Fires, disasters, hazardous-material incidents, and other emergencies;
- (g) Emergency response times and outcomes, where available;
- (h) Safety infrastructure and preparedness indicators;
- (i) Training, drills, and corrective actions; and
- (j) Other indicators necessary for policy evaluation.

Public reports shall present aggregated or de-identified information. No public report shall identify a minor, victim, confidential reporter, or person who has not been lawfully found liable for an offense or violation.

The collection of data under this Act shall not authorize the creation of permanent behavioral profiles or watchlists of learners.

For incidents of serious school violence, the systems shall additionally collect, in aggregated or de-identified form:

- (a) Time from the incident to discovery;
- (b) Time from discovery to medical assessment;
- (c) Time from discovery to parent or guardian notification;
- (d) Time from discovery to external reporting;
- (e) The weapon or object involved and body part targeted;
- (f) Hospitalization, diagnostic imaging, or continuing medical treatment;
- (g) Prior reports involving the same learners;
- (h) Disciplinary disposition and behavioral intervention;
- (i) Recurrence; and
- (j) Findings of institutional noncompliance.

Sec. 37. Data Privacy, Record Retention, and Information Security. – All processing of personal and sensitive personal information under this Act shall comply with Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the “Data Privacy Act of 2012,” and other applicable laws.

The appropriate agencies and educational institutions shall adopt policies on:

- (a) Lawful purpose and proportionality of data collection;
- (b) Role-based access;
- (c) Information security and breach response;
- (d) Retention periods appropriate to the purpose of the record;
- (e) Secure disposal;
- (f) Disclosure and information-sharing protocols;
- (g) Correction of materially inaccurate information;
- (h) Protection of mental health, medical, child-protection, and disciplinary records; and
- (i) Audit trails and accountability for access or disclosure.

1 Records created solely for threat assessment shall be reviewed periodically and
2 shall not be retained longer than reasonably necessary, subject to lawful preservation
3 requirements, pending proceedings, and applicable records-management rules.
4

5 **Sec. 38. *Rights-Based Implementation and Prohibited Practices.*** – In
6 implementing this Act, educational institutions and government agencies shall observe
7 the rights of learners, personnel, parents, and other affected persons.
8

9 The following practices are prohibited:

10 (a) Discrimination or profiling based solely on disability, mental health condition,
11 race, ethnicity, religion, sex, gender, economic status, political belief, academic
12 performance, family background, or membership in a lawful organization;

13 (b) Punishment solely for making a good-faith report;

14 (c) Compelled public disclosure of confidential mental health, medical, child-
15 protection, or threat-assessment information;

16 (d) Use of humiliating, degrading, or unnecessarily frightening emergency drills;

17 (e) Public identification of a minor victim, reporter, witness, or person under
18 assessment, except as authorized by law;

19 (f) Treating a mental health condition or disability, by itself, as evidence of
20 dangerousness;

21 (g) Use of an unverified anonymous report as the sole basis for a final
22 disciplinary sanction; and

23 (h) Use of safety measures as a pretext to suppress lawful speech, association,
24 peaceful assembly, academic freedom, or legitimate learner participation.
25

26 Nothing in this Act shall prevent immediate and reasonable protective action
27 when necessary to address a specific and substantial threat.
28

29 **Sec. 39. *Safe Schools Innovation and Assistance Fund.*** – A Safe Schools
30 Innovation and Assistance Fund is hereby established to support eligible public
31 educational institutions and qualified private educational institutions serving
32 disadvantaged communities.
33

34 The Fund may be used for:

35 (a) Emergency communication and notification systems;

36 (b) Safety and accessibility improvements;

37 (c) Visitor-management and access-control systems;

38 (d) Training and certification of school safety personnel;

39 (e) Mental health and psychosocial support programs;

40 (f) Confidential reporting systems;

41 (g) Research, pilot programs, and evaluation;

42 (h) Cybersecurity measures for school safety systems;

43 (i) Community-based violence-prevention initiatives; and

44 (j) Other eligible purposes consistent with this Act.

1
2 Priority shall be given to schools in geographically isolated and disadvantaged
3 areas, conflict-affected areas, disaster-prone communities, densely populated
4 campuses, schools with significant infrastructure deficiencies, and institutions serving
5 large numbers of vulnerable learners.
6

7 The use of artificial intelligence or automated systems funded under this section
8 shall be subject to human oversight, transparency, cybersecurity, privacy, accuracy
9 testing, nondiscrimination safeguards, and a prohibition against fully automated
10 adverse decisions affecting learners or personnel.
11

12 **Sec. 40. Grants and Technical Assistance.** – The Department of Education,
13 Commission on Higher Education, and Technical Education and Skills Development
14 Authority shall provide grants, templates, technical assistance, training, and shared
15 services to assist educational institutions in complying with this Act.
16

17 Small schools and institutions with limited resources may comply through
18 cluster-based threat assessment teams, shared mental health personnel, common
19 emergency communication systems, joint training, and coordinated local response
20 arrangements.
21

22 Private educational institutions may receive assistance subject to eligibility
23 standards, public-purpose requirements, auditing rules, and conditions prescribed in
24 the implementing rules and regulations.
25

26 **Sec. 41. National Safe Schools Council.** – A National Safe Schools Council is
27 hereby created to coordinate national policy and implementation under this Act.
28 The Council shall be chaired by the Secretary of Education, with the Chairperson of
29 the Commission on Higher Education and the Director General of the Technical
30 Education and Skills Development Authority as Vice-Chairpersons.
31

32 The Council shall include authorized representatives from:
33 (a) Department of the Interior and Local Government;
34 (b) Department of Health;
35 (c) Department of Social Welfare and Development;
36 (d) Department of Public Works and Highways;
37 (e) Department of Information and Communications Technology;
38 (f) Department of Justice;
39 (g) Department of National Defense;
40 (h) Philippine National Police;
41 (i) Bureau of Fire Protection;
42 (j) Office of Civil Defense;
43 (k) National Privacy Commission;
44 (l) National Commission on Disability Affairs;

- 1 (m) Council for the Welfare of Children;
- 2 (n) Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines or its successor organization;
- 3 and
- 4 (o) Such other agencies as may be necessary.

5
6 The Council shall establish mechanisms for the meaningful participation of
7 representatives of learners, parents, teachers, school administrators, private
8 educational institutions, mental health professionals, child-protection advocates,
9 persons with disabilities, security professionals, and other relevant stakeholders.

10
11 **Sec. 42. Powers and Functions of the Council.** – The Council shall:

- 12 (a) Approve and periodically review the National Safe Schools Framework;
- 13 (b) Harmonize standards, reporting requirements, training, and interagency
14 protocols;
- 15 (c) Establish national performance indicators;
- 16 (d) Recommend annual funding priorities;
- 17 (e) Coordinate research, technical assistance, public education, and capacity
18 building;
- 19 (f) Monitor implementation and identify persistent compliance gaps;
- 20 (g) Promote interoperability of emergency communication and reporting
21 systems;
- 22 (h) Recommend legislative, administrative, and budgetary measures;
- 23 (i) Submit an annual report to the President and Congress; and
- 24 (j) Perform other functions necessary to carry out this Act.

25
26 **Sec. 43. Designation of Lead Agencies.** – The Department of Education shall
27 be the lead implementing agency for basic education institutions.

28
29 The Commission on Higher Education shall be the lead implementing agency
30 for higher educational institutions.

31
32 The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority shall be the lead
33 implementing agency for technical-vocational institutions and training centers.

34
35 Each lead agency shall establish or designate a permanent office or unit
36 responsible for school safety and violence prevention and shall coordinate with the
37 National Safe Schools Council and concerned national and local agencies.

38
39 **Sec. 44. Compliance, Monitoring, and Corrective Action.** – The lead agencies
40 shall establish proportionate monitoring and compliance mechanisms for institutions
41 under their respective jurisdiction.

42
43 When an educational institution fails to satisfy a material requirement under this
44 Act, the appropriate lead agency shall ordinarily provide:

- 1 (a) Written notice of the deficiency;
- 2 (b) Technical assistance where appropriate;
- 3 (c) A reasonable corrective-action period based on the seriousness of the risk
- 4 and the resources required; and
- 5 (d) Follow-up assessment.

6

7 Immediate interim protective measures may be required when a deficiency

8 presents a clear and serious danger.

9

10 Administrative sanctions may be imposed only in accordance with existing laws,

11 applicable regulatory authority, due process, and the implementing rules and

12 regulations. No public school head or personnel shall be held administratively liable

13 for the non-completion of a capital-intensive infrastructure requirement when the

14 necessary funds, procurement authority, or implementing support have not been made

15 available, unless the person concerned misused available funds, refused without

16 lawful cause to implement feasible interim measures, or committed another actionable

17 violation.

18

19 The implementing rules and regulations shall identify, subject to existing laws

20 and due process, the following as material administrative violations:

- 21 (a) Failure to provide required emergency medical assistance;
 - 22 (b) Unjustified delay in parent or guardian notification;
 - 23 (c) Deliberate failure to report serious school violence;
 - 24 (d) Destruction, alteration, concealment, or unlawful withholding of relevant
 - 25 evidence;
 - 26 (e) Retaliation against a victim, reporter, or witness;
 - 27 (f) Falsification or material omission in an incident report or chronology;
 - 28 (g) Coercing a victim or family into withdrawal, waiver, settlement, mediation,
 - 29 or reconciliation;
 - 30 (h) Imposition of a sham or nominal sanction to avoid regulatory reporting or
 - 31 review;
 - 32 (i) Failure to implement reasonable interim protective measures; and
 - 33 (j) Repeated failure to act on documented bullying or violence.
- 34

35 **Sec. 45. Reports to Congress.** – Within one year from the effectivity of this Act

36 and annually thereafter, the National Safe Schools Council shall submit to the

37 President, the Senate, and the House of Representatives a report containing:

- 38 (a) The status of national implementation;
- 39 (b) Aggregated data on serious school safety incidents;
- 40 (c) Compliance and preparedness indicators;
- 41 (d) Infrastructure and resource gaps;
- 42 (e) Status and utilization of the Safe Schools Innovation and Assistance Fund;
- 43 (f) Results of program evaluations and after-action reviews;
- 44 (g) Identified best practices;
- 45 (h) Recommendations for legislation, appropriations, regulation, and
- 46 interagency action; and

1 (i) Other relevant information that does not compromise personal privacy,
2 school security, or ongoing proceedings.

3
4 **Sec. 46. Research and Periodic Review.** – The National Safe Schools Council
5 shall support independent research and evaluation on school violence prevention,
6 threat assessment, emergency preparedness, mental health intervention, security
7 technology, school climate, and recovery.

8
9 The National Safe Schools Framework shall be reviewed at least once every
10 three years or earlier when required by significant changes in law, technology, risk
11 conditions, or evidence.

12
13 Research involving children or identifiable personal information shall comply
14 with applicable ethical, privacy, consent, and child-protection requirements.

15
16 **Sec. 47. Construction with Existing Laws.** – This Act shall be implemented in
17 harmony with existing laws. Nothing in this Act shall be interpreted to reduce any
18 higher standard or stronger protection established under existing law.

19
20 **Sec. 48. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation
21 of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Department of
22 Education, Commission on Higher Education, Technical Education and Skills
23 Development Authority, and other concerned agencies.

24
25 Thereafter, the amounts necessary for the continued implementation of this Act,
26 including the Safe Schools Innovation and Assistance Fund, shall be included in the
27 annual General Appropriations Act.

28
29 Local government units may appropriate funds and use lawful disaster risk
30 reduction and management, special education, development, health, social welfare,
31 public safety, and other available funds for eligible activities under this Act, subject to
32 existing budgeting, accounting, procurement, and auditing laws.

33
34 **Sec. 49. Transitory Implementation.** – Within one year from the effectivity of the
35 implementing rules and regulations, all educational institutions shall:

- 36 (a) Designate their school safety focal persons;
37 (b) Establish or join a Threat Assessment and Intervention Team;
38 (c) Establish a School Crisis Response Team;
39 (d) Complete an initial school safety risk assessment;
40 (e) Adopt an initial School Safety and Emergency Preparedness Plan; and
41 (f) Establish or designate accessible reporting channels.
42

1 Infrastructure requirements shall be implemented according to a phased, risk-
2 based schedule prescribed by the appropriate lead agency, with priority given to
3 deficiencies presenting the greatest danger to life and safety.

4
5 (g) Adopt and operationalize the mandatory serious school violence response,
6 medical-response, parent-notification, evidence-preservation, and external-reporting
7 protocols required under this Act; and

8 (h) Train designated personnel on head trauma, first aid, emergency referral,
9 child-sensitive investigation, evidence preservation, and disability-inclusive response.

10
11 **Sec. 50. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within one hundred twenty
12 (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education, Commission
13 on Higher Education, and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, in
14 coordination with the members of the National Safe Schools Council and after
15 consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and
16 regulations.

17
18 Separate or supplemental regulations may be issued for basic education,
19 higher education, and technical-vocational education, provided that such regulations
20 remain consistent with the common national standards and safeguards under this Act.

21
22 **Sec. 51. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared
23 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain
24 in full force and effect.

25
26 **Sec. 52. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders,
27 administrative issuances, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby
28 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

29
30 **Sec. 53. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
31 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

32
33 *Approved.*