

Republic of the Philippines

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10557**

Introduced by HON. PHILIP CONRAD “DOK BONG” M. ACOP

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SAFETY AND WEAPON PREVENTION PROGRAM, MANDATING THE COLLABORATIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVENTIVE MEASURES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND BARANGAYS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and to take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. Integral to this mandate is the solemn responsibility to ensure that our educational institutions are safe, secure, and conducive to learning.

However, our schools are increasingly becoming scenes of tragic and unprecedented violence. The recent spate of weapon-related incidents among students inside school premises has raised extreme alarm regarding the effectiveness of our current campus security protocols.

On June 22, 2026, a horrific school shooting occurred at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City, where two teenage suspects armed with firearms killed three students and injured twenty others.¹ On July 31, 2026, a 13-year-old student was fatally stabbed by a 14-year-old schoolmate using a pocket knife inside the Las Piñas National High School.² These are not isolated cases; in January 2023, a similar fatal stabbing of a 13-year-old

¹ “Three killed, five injured in school shooting in central Philippines.” Reuters. June 22, 2026. Available at: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/three-killed-five-injured-school-shooting-central-philippines-2026-06-22/>.

² “NCRPO: Las Piñas teen faces murder raps over fatal stabbing of classmate.” Inquirer. August 3, 2026. Available at: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2275999/ncrpo-las-pinas-teen-faces-murder-raps-over-fatal-stabbing-of-classmate/>.

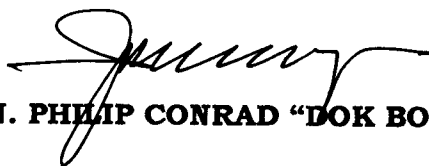
learner by a 15-year-old fellow student occurred inside Culiat High School in Quezon City.³

These heartbreaking incidents prove that deadly weapons, whether firearms or easily concealed bladed instruments, are successfully bypassing school gates. They highlight a glaring gap in our preventive measures, threat detection, and localized security infrastructures. The safety of our children can no longer rely on reactive measures; it demands a proactive, comprehensive, and whole-of-community approach.

This bill seeks to establish a robust framework to prevent the entry of weapons into schools and deter campus violence. It mandates the collaborative implementation of preventive measures by the Department of Education (DepEd), Local Government Units (LGUs), and barangays.

Schools must remain sanctuaries of learning and growth, not grounds for violence and mourning. By institutionalizing proactive threat assessments, environmental security design, and community-driven vigilance, we can protect our learners and educators from the rising threat of school violence.

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



HON. PHILIP CONRAD "DOK BONG" M. ACOP

³ "DepEd 'disturbed' by stabbing of 13-year-old." Inquirer. January 23, 2023. Available at: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1719713/deped-disturbed-by-stabbing-of-13-year-old>

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as “*The S.A.F.E. (Secure and Firearm-Free Education) Schools Act.*”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and to ensure that educational institutions are safe, secure, and conducive to learning. The State recognizes that preventing the entry of weapons into schools requires a whole-of-community approach involving national agencies, school administrations, local government units, and grassroots barangay institutions.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. — As used in this Act:

- a. *Weapons* shall refer to firearms, bladed or pointed instruments, explosives, improvised deadly devices, and any other object reasonably considered capable of causing physical harm, excluding tools required for authorized academic or extracurricular activities.
- b. *School Zones* shall refer to the school campus and the immediate perimeter within a fifty (50) meter radius from any school gate.
- c. *Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)* shall refer to a multi-disciplinary approach to deterring criminal behavior through the physical design of the school environment.

- d. *Behavioral Threat Assessment* shall refer to a proactive, evidence-based process used to identify, assess, and manage the risk of violence posed by a student.

SEC. 4. Mandates of the Department of Education (DepEd). — The DepEd shall serve as the lead agency in implementing this Act. It shall:

- a. Formulate and enforce a National School Access Control Policy, requiring uniform security risk assessments across all school divisions.
- b. Establish a national framework for an Anonymous Digital Tip Line, providing a secure SMS or app-based channel for students to report weapons or threats without fear of retaliation.
- c. Mandate the creation of Behavioral Threat Assessment Teams (BTATs) in all school divisions, composed of guidance counselors, trained teachers, and administrators, to proactively identify and intervene with at-risk students exhibiting violent tendencies.
- d. *Integrate conflict resolution, peace education, and the legal consequences of weapon possession into the primary and secondary education curricula.*
- e. Provide mandatory annual De-escalation Training for school security personnel and teaching staff to safely manage incidents involving armed students.

SEC. 5. Responsibilities of School Administrations. — All public and private basic education institutions shall ensure the conduct and implementation of the following:

- a. **Access Control:** Designate specific, secured entry and exit points equipped with appropriate personnel and mechanisms. During class hours, enforce a Single Point of Entry policy by funneling all late arrivals and visitors through a heavily monitored main gate, ensuring all other perimeters remain secure.
- b. **Bag Inspections and Transparency:** Conduct random, reasonable, and non-intrusive inspections of bags prior to entry, strictly upholding the students' right to dignity and privacy. Additionally, schools may, through consultation with the Parents-Teachers Association (PTA), mandate a "Clear Backpack Policy" to mitigate concealed threats.
- c. **Parental Involvement:** Require parents and guardians, through formal agreements during enrollment, to regularly inspect their children's belongings before leaving for school.
- d. **Confiscation and Reporting:** Immediately confiscate any discovered weapon and report the incident to the local Philippine National Police

(PNP) and the Local Social Welfare and Development Office (LSWDO) within twenty-four (24) hours.

- e. ***Amnesty and Safe Disposal:*** Install secure, unmonitored “Amnesty Boxes” or surrender bins outside the main gate, allowing students to safely dispose of prohibited items before entering the campus without facing immediate criminal charges.
- f. ***Environmental Security:*** Apply Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles by eliminating campus blind spots, trimming overgrown vegetation, ensuring adequate lighting, and removing abandoned structures where weapons may be hidden.

SEC. 6. Role of Local Government Units (LGUs). — City and municipal LGUs shall actively support school safety by allocating a portion of the Special Education Fund (SEF) for the procurement of modern security infrastructure, including but not limited to:

- a. Perimeter hardening and structural reinforcements.
- b. RFID and smart turnstiles to verify student enrollment at entry points.
- c. AI-enhanced CCTV cameras capable of detecting the shapes of drawn firearms or large blades.
- d. Enacting local ordinances that strictly prohibit the sale, display, or unauthorized possession of weapons within school zones.
- e. Coordinating with the local Philippine National Police (PNP) to ensure heightened police visibility and regular patrols in school zones during drop-off and dismissal hours.

SEC. 7. Duties of the Barangay. — As the primary grassroots unit, the barangay shall:

- a. Deploy barangay tanods to conduct regular foot patrols within the immediate perimeter of schools located within their jurisdiction.
- b. Utilize the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) to identify and stage early interventions for at-risk youth showing signs of violent behavior or gang affiliation.
- c. Establish a community watch system to intercept and report students suspected of carrying weapons before they enter school premises.

SEC. 8. Interventions for Minors. — Any student found in possession of a weapon shall not be subjected to adult penal facilities. Interventions shall strictly comply with Republic Act No. 9344, otherwise known as the *Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006*. The Local Social Welfare Development Office

(LSWDO), in coordination with the school's Behavioral Threat Assessment Team, shall immediately take custody of the minor to determine the appropriate diversion program, psychological counseling, and family intervention required.

SEC. 9. Appropriations. — The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the DepEd. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC.10. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). — Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd, in consultation with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the PNP, and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 11. Separability Clause. — If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 12. Repealing Clause. — All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,