



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

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 10697

Introduced by Representatives
Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew
Julian K. Romualdez and Jude A. Acidre

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution commands the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and to establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education. Fulfilling this mandate requires more than the effective performance of individual education agencies. It demands a coherent governance framework that enables the entire education sector to pursue common priorities, align resources, and sustain reforms across administrations.

The present trifocalized system assigns distinct mandates to the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). While this structure allows each agency to focus on its respective sector, the challenges confronting Philippine education increasingly cut across institutional boundaries. Learner progression, teacher and education workforce requirements, skills development, labor market responsiveness, data interoperability, scholarship policy, and the transition of learners from basic education to higher education, technical-vocational education and training, and employment all require sustained coordination among several agencies of government.

The Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II) has underscored the need for seamless and integrated delivery of education and for stronger coordination across the education system. In response to this governance gap, Administrative Order No. 36, series of 2025, established the Education and Workforce Development Group as a central coordinating mechanism for education and workforce development. The gains from such coordination, however, should not depend solely on an administrative issuance or on the priorities of a particular administration. A permanent statutory mechanism is necessary to provide institutional continuity, clear accountability, and sustained policy alignment.

This bill therefore seeks to create the National Coordinating Council for Education (NCCE) under the Office of the President as the primary mechanism for directing, coordinating, and monitoring education and workforce development reforms across the Executive Branch. Chaired by the President, the Council will bring together the principal agencies responsible for education, skills development, science and technology, labor and employment, budgeting, and national development planning.

The proposed Council is tasked to align agency policies, plans, programs, and budgets with the National Education and Workforce Development Plan; coordinate and monitor priority reforms; develop a comprehensive human resource development plan for the education sector; improve labor market information to better guide learners and institutions; establish an interoperable learner data system; rationalize overlapping inter-agency mechanisms; and institute a results-based monitoring and evaluation framework. It will likewise provide a regular venue for ensuring that major education reforms are implemented coherently and that responsible agencies remain accountable for agreed targets and outcomes.

By institutionalizing a permanent apex coordinating body, this measure seeks to address fragmentation without diminishing the statutory mandates of the country's education agencies. Rather, it provides the mechanism through which their respective mandates may operate as parts of a single, coherent education and workforce development system. This will help ensure continuity of reforms, more efficient use of public resources, and policies that respond to the needs of Filipino learners and the evolving demands of the economy.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



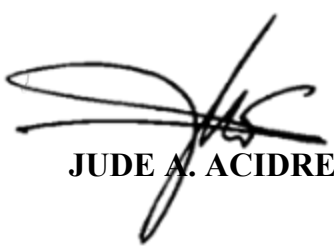
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines
in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the “National Coordinating Council for Education (NCCE) Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is hereby declared the policy of 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. The State recognizes the need to address the learning crisis and ensure the seamlessness of the education system. To this end, the State shall establish a permanent mechanism to ensure strong, effective, and continuous coordination among the agencies involved in education and workforce development, ensuring that reforms and priorities remain consistent regardless of changes in national administration.

SEC. 3. *Creation of the National Coordinating Council for Education.* — There is hereby created under the Office of the President a high-level inter-agency body to be known as the National Coordinating Council for Education (NCCE), hereinafter referred to as the Council, which shall serve as the primary mechanism for directing, coordinating, and monitoring education and workforce development reforms across the Executive Branch.

The Council shall operate under the supervision of the Office of the President and shall ensure alignment of agency policies, plans, programs, and budgets with the National Education and Workforce Development Plan, and other subsequent midterm and long-term plans on education and workforce development.

SEC. 4. *Composition of the Council.* — The President of the Philippines shall serve as Chairperson of the Council. The President may designate a Cabinet Secretary as Vice Chairperson to oversee day-to-day coordination, with the following as members:

- (a) Secretary, Department of Education (DepEd);
- (b) Chairperson, Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
- (c) Director General, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA);
- (d) Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
- (e) Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
- (f) Secretary, Department of Budget and Management (DBM); and
- (g) Secretary, Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev).

SEC. 5. *Powers and Functions.* — The Council shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) Serve as venue for regular collaboration and coordination to ensure harmonized policies and programs of the education agencies, and other relevant government bodies;
- (b) Implement, refine, and update the National Education and Workforce Development Plan, to inform and ensure coherence of targets, priorities, and resource allocations of member agencies;

- (c) Ensure alignment and convergence with existing inter-agency mechanisms, including those established under Administrative Order No. 36, s. 2025, and harmonize policies, plans, and programs across relevant bodies to avoid duplication, strengthen coordination, and maximize the efficient use of government resources;
- (d) Oversee, coordinate, and monitor the implementation of priority education and workforce development reforms, including those identified by the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II), and such other reform initiatives as may be adopted by the Council, in order to ensure coherence, continuity, and sustained impact across administrations;
- (e) Develop and implement a comprehensive human resource in education development plan, including the supply and demand of teachers and non-teaching professionals and personnel required to support the needs of the education sector;
- (f) Review and endorse major education sector budget proposals prior to submission to DBM;
- (g) Propose and jointly implement, through relevant agencies, scholarship programs, research, grants, trainings, and other initiatives, to support the above plans and to strengthen the capacity of the system as a whole;
- (h) Upgrade the country's labor market information (LMI) system to better inform student and school choice, including offerings in Senior High School, TVET, higher education, and other lifelong learning opportunities, and to serve as evidence-based in the strategic identification of government priorities for scholarship programs and other grants;
- (i) Establish, implement, and maintain an interoperable data system that tracks learner progress beginning in early childhood, ensuring integration of data across relevant agencies, in partnership with, but not limited to, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Department of Health (DOH), National Nutrition Council (NNC), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT);
- (j) Review and propose mechanisms to rationalize interagency bodies participated in by the education agencies, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management, consistent with Republic Act (RA) No. 12231 or the Government Optimization Act;

- (k) Recommend to the Legislative-Executive Advisory Council (LEDAC) key legislative measures related to education and workforce development;
- (l) Implement and monitor key government reforms in education, including the recommendations of EDCOM II;
- (m) Submit to the Office of the President, the Senate of the Philippines, and the House of Representatives an annual report on the status of the implementation of the National Education and Workforce Development Plan, including its policy recommendations and the progress and accomplishments in relation to the Council's goals and objectives.

SEC. 6. *Technical Working Groups.* — To support the work of the Council, the body may create Technical Working Groups in identified priority areas. Said Groups shall be composed of senior officials from member agencies, with at least the level of Assistant Secretary or Director IV of the relevant offices handling these concerns.

Further, the Council may invite or enjoin relevant heads of departments and agencies to join the Council and/or Groups, as necessary. This includes other executive agencies, heads of industry and educational associations and other organizations, as well as representatives of relevant sectoral groups, to ensure overall efficiency and effectiveness.

SEC. 7. *Convergence and Accountability.* — All Heads of the member-agencies of NCCE, including their respective attached agencies, are hereby directed to render their full and timely assistance and cooperation to the Council, and provide such information and data as may be required to carry out its mandates. The Council may call upon the assistance of such other agencies of the Government, as may be necessary in the performance of its functions.

All member agencies shall be accountable for the timely and effective implementation of programs, projects, and activities aligned with the National Education and Workforce Development Plan.

Furthermore, the Council shall establish a results-based monitoring and evaluation framework, with clear targets, performance indicators, and reporting mechanisms. Member agencies, as well as those invited or enjoined to support the work of the Council, shall regularly submit such data, reports, and information as may be required to assess progress and ensure accountability.

SEC. 8. *The Council Secretariat.* — The Secretariat shall serve as the central technical, analytical, and program management arm of the Council, and shall be responsible for policy analysis, program coordination, monitoring and evaluation, data integration, and the provision of strategic and administrative support necessary for the effective discharge of the Council’s mandate. It shall be headed by an Executive Director with the rank of Undersecretary, who shall be appointed by the President.

The Secretariat may be staffed by a core complement of permanent personnel and augmented, as necessary, by technical experts, seconded personnel from member and other government agencies, and contracted specialists, subject to existing civil service, budgeting, procurement, and auditing laws, rules, and regulations.

SEC. 9. *Rationalization and Convergence of Inter-Agency Bodies.* — To promote policy coherence and administrative efficiency, the Council shall serve as the primary inter-agency platform for matters relating to education and workforce development.

Accordingly, existing inter-agency councils, committees, and similar bodies with substantially similar mandates or memberships shall, to the extent practicable, conduct their coordination, deliberations, and decision-making through the Council or its Technical Working Groups.

Meetings convened by the Council or its duly authorized Technical Working Groups shall be deemed compliance with the meeting and coordination requirements of such bodies, subject to applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

SEC. 10. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Office of the President. Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continuous implementation shall be included in the budget proposal of the Office of the President in the annual General Appropriations Act, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, administrative orders, rules and regulations, issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended 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,