



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives

20th CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10748



Introduced by Hon. Charisse Anne C. Hernandez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Filipino youth deserve a second chance—not because they have failed, but because circumstances should never be allowed to define the limits of their future.

The Philippine Statistics Authority's recent data continue to show the challenge of keeping young Filipinos connected to education and productive economic activity. In July 2025, 15.9% of Filipinos aged 15 to 24 were not in education, employment, or training (NEET), higher than the 13.9% recorded a year earlier. While NEET is not exactly synonymous with out-of-school youth, it reflects a serious disconnection between young people and the pathways that lead to learning, work, and economic participation.

At the same time, government already has important programs for second-chance education, particularly the Alternative Learning System under Republic Act No. 11510. What is still needed is a stronger framework that connects education with the other realities of an OSY's life: skills, work, livelihood, health, social protection, digital access, and reintegration.

This is the purpose of this bill.

The proposed Magna Carta of the Out-of-School Youth Act recognizes OSYs as rights-holders and partners in nation-building. It provides a framework for ensuring that young Filipinos outside the formal education system are not excluded from opportunities available to their peers.

The measure is patterned in substance after the policy direction of Senator Raffy T. Tulfo's Senate Bill No. 2064, which was filed in the 20th Congress on April 21, 2026, and carries the same short title and broad objective of providing a Magna Carta for OSYs. It likewise builds upon the earlier SBN 2059 filed by Senator Tulfo in the 19th Congress, which proposed rights protection, education, technical-vocational training, entrepreneurship, employment, social protection, and assistance for OSYs in especially difficult circumstances.

The proposed House measure, however, seeks to make the framework more coordinated and implementation-oriented.

It does not create parallel education, health, labor, social-welfare, or technical-vocational systems. DepEd remains responsible for basic education and ALS; TESDA for technical-vocational education and training; DOLE for employment and labor programs; DSWD for social protection and welfare; and other agencies retain their respective statutory mandates.

Instead, the bill establishes mechanisms for access, referral, convergence, and accountability. It also brings the Magna Carta closer to the community through an OSY Development Hub in every barangay, using existing public facilities whenever possible. A young person should not have to travel to a national office simply to ask:

“Saan ako puwedeng mag-aral ulit? Saan ako puwedeng mag-training? May trabaho ba para sa akin? May livelihood program ba? Sino ang puwedeng tumulong sa akin?”

Government should have an answer. The bill further recognizes that not every OSY will take the same path. Some may return to school. Others may pursue ALS, TESDA training, employment, entrepreneurship, agriculture, digital work, or other productive opportunities. The State's role is not to force one path upon them, but to ensure that there is a path available.

This is why the measure promotes skills recognition, employment and apprenticeship pathways, entrepreneurship, digital inclusion, health and wellness, social protection, and access to essential government documents.

The bill also gives special attention to OSYs facing poverty, disability, displacement, geographic isolation, family responsibilities, homelessness, conflict, or other difficult circumstances.

Most importantly, this measure seeks to change the way society sees out-of-school youth. Being out of school is a circumstance—not a permanent identity.

A young person who left school may still become a skilled worker, entrepreneur, farmer, professional, artist, community leader, or public servant. What matters is whether we give that young person the opportunity to begin again.

The State should not merely ask why a young Filipino dropped out.

We should ask what we can do to help that young Filipino move forward.

The Magna Carta of the Out-of-School Youth Act answers that call by providing rights, opportunities, protection, and pathways to reintegration.

No young Filipino should be told that because they once left school, they have already been left behind.

There is always another path. There should always be another chance.

The passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10748**

Introduced by Honorable Charisse Anne C. Hernandez

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE RIGHTS, PROTECTION, DEVELOPMENT, AND
EMPOWERMENT OF OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH, PROVIDING FOR GOVERNMENT
ASSISTANCE AND OPPORTUNITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the “Magna Carta of the Out-of-School Youth Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to recognize the vital role of the youth in nation-building and to promote and protect their physical, moral, intellectual, social, economic, and civic well-being.

The State recognizes that being out of school must not result in exclusion from opportunities for education, skills development, employment, entrepreneurship, health, social protection, and meaningful participation in society.

Toward this end, the State shall adopt a second-chance and opportunity-based approach that enables out-of-school youth to develop their full potential and become productive and empowered partners in national development.

SEC. 3. Objectives. This Act shall pursue the following objectives:

- a. Protect the rights and dignity of out-of-school youth against discrimination and exclusion;
- b. Facilitate their access to formal and alternative education, technical-vocational training, employment, entrepreneurship, and livelihood opportunities;
- c. Provide appropriate social protection, health, wellness, and support services;
- d. Recognize and develop the skills, competencies, talents, and potential of out-of-school youth;
- e. Facilitate their reintegration into education, training, employment, entrepreneurship, or other productive pathways;
- f. Strengthen coordination among national government agencies, local government units, civil society, educational institutions, employers, and youth organizations; and
- g. Ensure that no out-of-school youth is permanently left behind because of poverty, geography, disability, family circumstances, employment, displacement, or other barriers.

SEC. 4. Definition of Terms.

For purposes of this Act:

- a. **Out-of-School Youth (OSY)** refers to Filipino youth who are currently not enrolled in formal basic or tertiary education and who may require or benefit from education, training, employment, livelihood, social protection, or other development opportunities.
- b. **Alternative Learning System (ALS)** refers to the alternative learning system established under Republic Act No. 11510 and other applicable laws and regulations.
- c. **Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET)** refers to education and training programs under the jurisdiction of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.
- d. **Social Protection** refers to policies and programs intended to reduce poverty, vulnerability, and exposure to risks through appropriate social welfare, social insurance, labor-market, and social-safety-net interventions.
- e. **OSY Development Hub** refers to an existing or designated community facility that serves as an accessible information, referral, learning, and youth-development point for out-of-school youth.

CHAPTER II RIGHTS AND PROTECTION

SEC. 5. Rights of Out-of-School Youth. Out-of-school youth shall enjoy all rights guaranteed under the Constitution, existing laws, and international instruments to which the Philippines is a party.

They shall, without discrimination, have the right to:

- a. Equal protection and treatment under the law;
- b. Access to appropriate education and learning opportunities;
- c. Access to skills development, employment, entrepreneurship, and livelihood opportunities;
- d. Access to basic health, mental health, and social services;
- e. Access to information and digital resources;
- f. Participate in youth and community affairs;
- g. Have their skills, competencies, and prior learning appropriately assessed and recognized under existing systems;
- h. Access government identification and essential documents necessary to obtain public services;
- i. Be protected from violence, exploitation, trafficking, discrimination, and abuse; and
- j. Be consulted and heard in the formulation of programs and policies affecting them.

SEC. 6. Protection from Violence, Exploitation and Discrimination. The State shall protect OSYs from physical, psychological, and sexual abuse, exploitation, trafficking, forced labor, discrimination, and other forms of violence.

Existing laws on trafficking, violence against women and children, labor protection, child protection, disability rights, and other applicable laws shall continue to govern.

Government agencies shall ensure appropriate referral to protective, medical, psychosocial, legal, and rehabilitation services.

SEC. 7. Cultural Identity and Inclusion. The rights of Indigenous and Muslim Filipino OSYs to preserve, practice, and develop their culture, traditions, identity, and indigenous knowledge systems shall be respected in accordance with existing laws.

Programs under this Act shall be culturally appropriate, gender-responsive, disability-inclusive, and accessible to underserved communities.

CHAPTER III GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AND OPPORTUNITIES

SEC. 8. Education and Second-Chance Learning. The State shall facilitate the access of OSYs to appropriate education and learning pathways, including formal education, ALS, flexible learning, literacy programs, and other legally recognized learning modalities.

The Department of Education shall retain its mandate over basic education and ALS pursuant to Republic Act No. 11510.

The Department of Youth Development and Empowerment, in coordination with concerned agencies and LGUs, shall primarily undertake information, outreach, referral, and convergence functions to help OSYs access such programs.

SEC. 9. Technical-Vocational Education and Skills Development. OSYs shall be facilitated in accessing existing TESDA programs, including technical-vocational education, competency assessment, certification, scholarships, apprenticeships, and other skills-development opportunities.

Qualified OSYs shall be prioritized for available government scholarships and training assistance, subject to existing program requirements and appropriations.

SEC. 10. Employment and Decent Work. OSYs who are capable and willing to work shall be provided appropriate access to employment opportunities through existing government employment services.

DOLE, PESO, TESDA, and other concerned agencies shall facilitate:

- a. Job matching;
- b. Career guidance;
- c. Apprenticeships and work-based learning;
- d. Skills certification;
- e. Employment referrals;
- f. Labor-rights orientation; and
- g. Other appropriate employment pathways.

OSYs entering employment shall enjoy the rights and protections guaranteed under labor laws.

SEC. 11. Entrepreneurship and Livelihood. OSYs shall be facilitated in accessing existing government programs on entrepreneurship, livelihood, cooperatives, microenterprise, agriculture, fisheries, digital work, and creative industries.

DTI, DA, TESDA, DOLE, CDA, and other concerned agencies shall provide appropriate technical assistance, training, mentoring, financing referrals, and market-linkage opportunities within their respective mandates.

SEC. 12. Health, Mental Health and Wellness. OSYs shall have access to appropriate preventive health, mental health, psychosocial, reproductive health, substance-abuse prevention, and wellness information and referral services through existing government health systems.

Nothing in this Act shall diminish the mandates of the Department of Health, DSWD, LGUs, or other competent agencies.

SEC. 13. Social Protection. OSYs experiencing poverty, disability, displacement, disaster, homelessness, family crisis, or other vulnerabilities shall be facilitated in accessing existing social protection and assistance programs for which they qualify.

Government agencies shall establish referral mechanisms to reduce gaps in access to social services.

SEC. 14. Digital Inclusion. Government shall promote digital inclusion among OSYs through access to:

- a. Digital literacy;
- b. Internet and digital learning resources;
- c. Online employment and entrepreneurship opportunities;
- d. Digital government services;
- e. Cybersecurity and online safety education; and
- f. Emerging technology and artificial intelligence skills.

Existing public facilities may be utilized as community-based digital access points.

SEC. 15. Skills, Prior Learning and Competency Recognition. The State shall facilitate the

assessment and recognition of skills and competencies acquired by OSYs through work, informal learning, volunteerism, training, apprenticeship, and other non-formal pathways, consistent with existing competency-assessment and certification systems.

SEC. 16. Access to Government Identification and Essential Documents. The concerned national government agencies and LGUs shall assist OSYs in obtaining the Philippine Identification Card and other essential government documents necessary to access education, employment, social protection, financial services, and other government programs.

CHAPTER IV COMMUNITY-BASED OSY SUPPORT

SEC. 17. OSY Development Hubs. Every barangay shall, subject to available resources and through existing public facilities, establish or designate an OSY Development Hub, which may form part of the Youth Development Hub established under national youth-development policy.

The OSY Development Hub shall serve as a community-based access and referral point for OSYs.

The Sangguniang Kabataan, in coordination with the Barangay Government, Local Youth Development Office, and concerned national government agencies, shall assist in:

- a. Identifying and reaching OSYs;
- b. Disseminating information on available programs;
- c. Facilitating referrals;
- d. Supporting youth-led initiatives; and
- e. Monitoring local OSY concerns.

No separate office or plantilla position shall be required solely by reason of this Section.

SEC. 18. OSY Outreach and Reintegration. LGUs, through existing local youth-development structures, shall undertake reasonable outreach and referral activities to connect OSYs with appropriate education, training, employment, livelihood, health, and social-protection opportunities.

Participation in outreach and services shall respect the dignity, privacy, autonomy, and applicable data-protection rights of OSYs.

SEC. 19. Priority OSY Groups. Special attention shall be given to OSYs who are:

- a. Living in poverty;
- b. Persons with disabilities;
- c. Indigenous youth;
- d. Young parents or caregivers;
- e. Working youth;
- f. Youth in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas;
- g. Youth affected by disasters or displacement;
- h. Youth in conflict-affected communities;
- i. Youth transitioning from institutional or residential care;
- j. Youth experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity; and
- k. Other underserved or vulnerable groups identified through local assessment.

CHAPTER V GOVERNANCE, COORDINATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

SEC. 20. National OSY Development Program. The Department of Youth Development and Empowerment shall establish a National OSY Development Program as a convergence mechanism for existing government programs and services for OSYs.

The Program shall establish clear referral pathways among education, training, employment, entrepreneurship, health, social protection, and youth-development programs.

The Department shall not assume or duplicate the statutory mandates of concerned agencies.

SEC. 21. Inter-Agency Council for OSY Development. There shall be an Inter-Agency Council for OSY Development, chaired by the Secretary of Youth Development and Empowerment and composed of representatives from DepEd, TESDA, DOLE, DSWD, DOH, DILG, DTI, DA, DICT, CHED, PSA, and other agencies as may be necessary.

The Council shall:

- a. Coordinate policies and programs;
- b. Identify gaps in services;
- c. Develop common referral mechanisms;
- d. Recommend policy reforms;
- e. Monitor implementation; and
- f. Submit recommendations for the annual budget and legislative action.

SEC. 22. Local Government Responsibility. LGUs shall integrate OSY concerns into their local development and youth-development plans and shall utilize existing structures including the Local Youth Development Office, Local Youth Development Council, Sangguniang Kabataan, SK Federation, PESO, Local Social Welfare and Development Office, and other appropriate offices.

SEC. 23. National OSY Information and Monitoring System. The Department, in coordination with the Philippine Statistics Authority and concerned agencies, shall establish a National OSY Information and Monitoring System to support evidence-based policy, program targeting, and referral.

The System shall comply with Republic Act No. 10173, or the Data Privacy Act of 2012.

No OSY shall be denied assistance solely because he or she is not included in an existing database.

SEC. 24. Annual State of the Out-of-School Youth Report. The Department shall submit an annual State of the Out-of-School Youth Report to the President and both Houses of Congress containing:

- a. The estimated OSY population and profile;
- b. Education and training participation;
- c. Employment and livelihood outcomes;
- d. Access to social, health, and youth-development services;
- e. Geographic and sectoral gaps;
- f. Program performance; and
- g. Legislative and policy recommendations.

CHAPTER VI FUNDING AND FINAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 25. Funding. The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

National government agencies and LGUs may utilize existing appropriations for programs consistent with this Act, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, procurement, and auditing laws.

The Department shall prioritize the convergence and efficient utilization of existing programs and facilities.

SEC. 26. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Youth Commission and Department of Social Welfare and Development, in

consultation with concerned national government agencies, LGUs, OSY organizations, civil society, educational institutions, employers, and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary for its effective implementation.

SEC. 27. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 28. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Provided, That nothing in this Act shall be construed to repeal or diminish Republic Act No. 11510, Republic Act No. 10742, Republic Act No. 11768, or the existing mandates of DepEd, TESDA, DOLE, DSWD, DOH, CHED, DTI, DA, DICT, DILG, LGUs, and other concerned agencies.

SEC. 29. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.