

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **11013**



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to institutionalize the Alternative Classroom Learning Experience (ACLE) Program in all public and private secondary and tertiary educational institutions throughout the Philippines. It complements formal classroom instruction through student-led academic, civic, and experiential learning activities that cultivate critical thinking, democratic participation, leadership, and social responsibility.

The country continues to confront a learning crisis that extends beyond academic performance, but also to the development of critical thinking, civic engagement, and leadership among learners. The Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II)¹ described the state of Philippine education as a matter of “national survival” and emphasized that ninety one percent (91%) of Filipino ten-year-old learners are unable to read and understand age-appropriate texts, while persistent weaknesses in analytical reasoning, communication, and problem-solving continue to undermine the country’s human capital. The report further stressed that learning recovery cannot rely solely on traditional classroom instruction and called for transformative reforms that develop learners’ higher-order thinking, collaboration, and real-world competencies.

Likewise, the Department of Education’s Quality Basic Education Development Plan (Q-BEDP) 2025–2035² recognizes that improving education quality requires learner-centered, experiential, and innovative approaches that prepare students for rapid technological change, artificial intelligence, and the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Internationally, UNICEF Philippines³ continues to warn that the country’s learning crisis threatens its demographic dividend, noting

¹ Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II). (2025, January). *Fixing the Foundations: A Matter of National Survival (Year Two Report)*. Accessed from: <https://edcom2.gov.ph/media/2025/01/EDCOM-2-Year-2-Report-Fixing-the-Foundations-2025.pdf>. Accessed on July 4, 2026.

² Department of Education. (2025). *Quality Basic Education Development Plan (Q-BEDP) 2025–2035*. 2025. Accessed from: <https://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/en/2025/quality-basic-education-development-plan-2025-2035>. Accessed on July 4, 2026.

³ Piojo, L. M. (2024, Updated 2025). *Education: The Learning Crisis*. UNICEF Philippines. Accessed from: <https://www.unicef.org/philippines/education>. Accessed on July 4, 2026.

that without quality and inclusive education, the Philippines risks producing a generation that is inadequately prepared for employment, civic participation, and sustainable national development. Despite these realities, opportunities for structured, student-led academic discussions, community immersion, interdisciplinary learning, and civic engagement remain largely dependent on the initiatives of individual schools rather than on a consistent national policy.

This measure institutionalizes the Alternative Classroom Learning Experience (ACLE) Program as a mandatory activity to be conducted at least once every semester or academic term in all secondary and tertiary educational institutions. It empowers student councils and student governments to organize educational discussions, policy fora, workshops, community integration activities, lectures, symposia, fieldwork, film screenings, and other experiential learning initiatives with the support of school administrations. It transforms these activities into an integral component of the educational experience, guaranteeing that learners develop not only academic competence but also leadership, civic consciousness, social awareness, innovation, and the capacity to engage constructively with diverse ideas and contemporary national issues.

The bill reinforces the policy objectives of Republic Act (RA) No. 9155, otherwise known as the *"Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001"*; RA No. 7722, otherwise known as the *"Higher Education Act of 1994"*; RA No. 8292, otherwise known as the *"Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997"*; and RA No. 9500, otherwise known as the *"University of the Philippines Charter of 2008"*, all of which uphold quality education, academic freedom, institutional autonomy, and the holistic development of Filipino learners.

Education must do more than produce graduates who can pass examinations; it must nurture citizens who can question, innovate, lead, and serve. Every learner deserves opportunities to experience education beyond the confines of textbooks and classrooms, where ideas are challenged, perspectives are broadened, and meaningful engagement with society begins.

As the nation strives to recover from years of learning loss while preparing its youth for an increasingly complex and interconnected world, investing in programs that cultivate critical thinkers and responsible leaders has become an urgent national imperative. Institutionalizing the Alternative Classroom Learning Experience Program will help ensure that Filipino students are not merely equipped to earn a diploma, but are empowered to shape communities, strengthen democratic institutions, and lead the country's future with competence, integrity, and purpose.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



HON. ERIC G. YAP

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ALTERNATIVE CLASSROOM LEARNING
EXPERIENCE PROGRAM TO ALL SECONDARY AND TERTIARY
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES

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 “*Alternative Classroom Learning Experience (ACLE) Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Alternative Classroom Learning Experience.* – The Alternative Classroom Learning Experience (ACLE) Program is a student-led and - organized activity that raises academic freedom inside our nation's campuses. It aims to provide students with alternative viewpoints, perspectives, ideas, and concepts not usually discussed through formal learning instruction and not usually found in textbooks and official educational materials. Activities related to the ACLE Program shall include but not limited to: workshops, educational discussions, training, community integration, field-work, fora, symposia, film showing and/or audio-visual presentations, lectures.

SEC. 3. *Conduct of an ACLE per Term or Semester.* – All secondary and tertiary educational institutions are mandated to conduct an Alternative Classroom Learning Experience (ACLE) activity at least once every semester or term, as the case may be. Student councils or student governments shall be primarily in charge of organizing the said activity. School administrations shall provide the necessary assistance to the student body to carry out the aim of this activity.

SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEP) as the oldest, broadest and only-existing alliance of tertiary student publication in the Asia-Pacific region and the National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP) as a nation-wide alliance of student councils/governments/unions committed to the advancement of the students' democratic rights and welfare, and both are Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)-registered national formation of student councils and government, in

coordination with youth groups and organizations, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to enforce the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,