

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11019



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The strength of a nation lies not only in the intelligence of its people, but in their character, discipline, and sense of responsibility to others.

In recent years, concerns have been raised regarding declining discipline, lack of civic consciousness, and weakening social responsibility among the youth. While the Philippine education system has made significant strides in expanding access and improving academic outcomes, there remains a pressing need to reinforce character formation as a central pillar of education.

Japan's educational system offers a compelling model in this regard. It is globally recognized not only for academic excellence but for its deep-rooted emphasis on discipline, respect, responsibility, and collective accountability. Students are taught early on the value of hard work, cleanliness, cooperation, and respect for others, not merely through classroom instruction, but through daily school practices and community engagement.

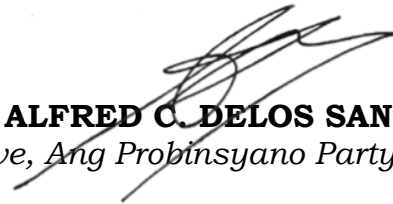
This proposed measure seeks to adapt these best practices to the Philippine context, strengthening the existing K to 12 curriculum by institutionalizing a more structured, experiential, and community-based approach to character education. It aims to produce learners who are not only academically competent but also morally grounded, socially responsible, and committed to nation-building.

The bill is firmly anchored on Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution, which mandates the State to promote quality education and develop moral character. It complements existing laws such as Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013 by reinforcing the holistic development of learners.

Importantly, this measure respects academic freedom, cultural diversity, and inclusivity, ensuring that character education remains secular, values-based, and responsive to the needs of Filipino communities.

At a time when the nation faces complex social and economic challenges, it is imperative to invest not only in knowledge, but in the values and character of future generations.

It is for the foregoing premises that the approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.



ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS
Representative, Ang Probinsyano Party-List

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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING CHARACTER EDUCATION IN THE PHILIPPINE
BASIC EDUCATION SYSTEM THROUGH A HOLISTIC AND VALUES-BASED
APPROACH INSPIRED BY INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICES, INCLUDING
JAPAN'S EDUCATIONAL MODEL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “*Character Education and Civic Formation Act.*”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the holistic development of learners, including intellectual, moral, social, and civic dimensions and instill values of discipline, responsibility, respect, cooperation, and love of country. Toward this end, the State shall strengthen the role of education in nation-building and civic consciousness and align the Philippine education system with global best practices, including Japan’s emphasis on character formation.

SECTION 3. *Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all public and private basic education institutions under the supervision of the Department of Education (DepEd).

SECTION 4. *Institutionalization of Character Education.* - The Department of Education shall institutionalize a comprehensive character education program integrated into the K to 12 curriculum, which shall:

- (a) Emphasize values formation, ethics, and civic responsibility;

- (b) Incorporate daily routines and practices that promote discipline, respect, and cooperation;
- (c) Promote experiential learning, including community engagement and school-based responsibilities;
- (d) Encourage collective responsibility, such as maintaining cleanliness and order in school environments; and
- (e) Integrate character education across all subject areas.

SECTION 5. *Moral and Civic Education Curriculum.* - DepEd shall strengthen and enhance existing subjects such as Values Education, Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao (EsP), and Araling Panlipunan to incorporate structured and measurable character development outcomes.

SECTION 6. *School-Based Practices.* - All schools shall adopt practices that promote character formation, including:

- (a) Student participation in maintaining school cleanliness and order;
- (b) Peer cooperation and group responsibility activities;
- (c) Respect-based classroom management;
- (d) Civic engagement and community service programs.

SECTION 7. *Teacher Training and Capacity Building.* - The DepEd, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) shall develop training programs for teachers on character education, integrate character formation principles in teacher education curricula and provide continuing professional development programs.

SECTION 8. *Role of Parents and Community.* - Schools shall engage parents and communities in reinforcing character education through parent education programs, community-based activities, and school-community partnerships.

SECTION 9. *Monitoring and Evaluation.* - DepEd shall develop indicators and tools to assess character development outcomes, behavioral improvements, and civic engagement levels of learners.

SECTION 10. *Non-Impairment Clause.* - Nothing in this Act shall supplant or diminish existing curriculum frameworks under Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013 (Republic Act 10533), infringe upon academic freedom of educational institutions, and override existing values education mandates.

This Act shall serve as a supplementary and strengthening measure.

SECTION 11. *Appropriation.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be incorporated in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from effectivity, DepEd, in coordination with relevant agencies, shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations.

SECTION 13. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 14. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees or issuances, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,