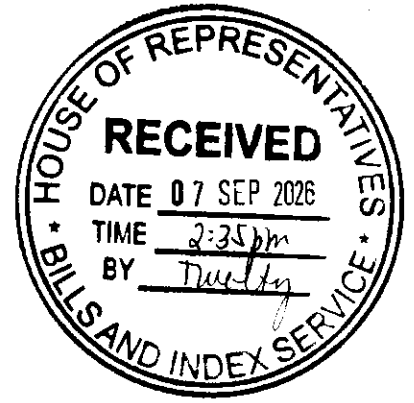


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11139



Introduced by: Hon. Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan

AN ACT

**INSTITUTIONALIZING A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SAFETY FRAMEWORK,
ENSURING THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF LEARNERS AND SCHOOL
PERSONNEL, AND PROMOTING A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE SCHOOL
COMMUNITY**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution guarantees the right of every child to quality education and a safe environment. However, tragic incidents like the June 2026 shooting at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City have exposed grave security gaps in basic education institutions. Today's students face complex, interconnected threats from physical gun violence and natural disasters to online radicalization, extreme cyberbullying, and severe mental health challenges. Existing policies remain fragmented, leaving schools without a unified system to prevent, manage, and recover from crisis situations.

The proposed bill seeks to address these critical gaps by institutionalizing a standardized, multi-agency safety framework across all public and private basic education institutions nationwide. The bill mandates annually updated School Safety Plans and accessible Safety Handbooks, sets physical security standards like visitor screening and surveillance, and establishes clear duties for school safety personnel. Crucially, it provides teaching load reductions for Classroom Advisers dedicated to student welfare, embeds digital safety and violent extremism prevention measures, and sets up robust psychosocial recovery and case management protocols.

The legislation also pioneers digital safety and violent extremism prevention by embedding digital literacy, cybersecurity measures, and proactive reporting pathways to counter online radicalization and cyberbullying. Ensuring that the classroom remains a sanctuary of learning that is free from violence, fear, and harm requires an immediate, decisive, and structural legislative response.

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


Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan
4th District, Quezon

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SAFETY FRAMEWORK,
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AND PROMOTING A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

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

TITLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Comprehensive School Safety Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all learners and school personnel to an enabling and supportive learning and working environment where all learners and school personnel are protected and secured from any form of abuse, violence, or harm. The State recognizes that school safety is a shared responsibility requiring the coordinated participation of learners, parents or guardians, school personnel, communities, local government units, national government agencies, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

Towards this end, the State shall institutionalize a comprehensive and integrated school safety system that promotes prevention, response, and recovery across all public and private basic education institutions; and strengthen coordination among the DepEd, national government agencies, LGUS, and other community stakeholders in the implementation of school safety measures.

SEC. 3. *Scope and Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all public and private basic education institutions, hereinafter referred to as "schools," including elementary and secondary schools and other basic education institutions as may be covered by the Department of Education (DepEd).

The provisions of this Act shall apply to learners, school personnel, and other members of the school community, and shall cover measures for the prevention of, protection from, response to, and recovery from threats to their safety and well-being within school premises and in connection with school-related activities, whether conducted on or off campus, including activities conducted through or involving digital platforms and technologies.

For purposes of this Act, school safety encompasses the protection and promotion of the physical, emotional, psychosocial, and digital safety and well-being of learners, school personnel, and other members of the school community, as well as the prevention and appropriate management of violence, abuse, bullying, discrimination, harassment, exploitation, emergencies, and other threats to their safety and well-being.

TITLE II SCHOOL SAFETY FRAMEWORK AND POLICIES

CHAPTER I SCHOOL SAFETY FRAMEWORK

SEC. 4. *Establishment of the National Comprehensive School Safety Framework.* – The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Philippine National Police (PNP), Local Government Units (LGUs), and other relevant government stakeholders shall establish, maintain, and periodically update a National Comprehensive School Safety Framework, hereinafter referred to as the "Framework," to guide the implementation of this Act in all schools.

The Framework shall, at the minimum, prescribe national standards for:

- (a) The preparation, implementation, periodic review, and evaluation of School Safety Plans and School Safety Handbooks;
- (b) School safety personnel, staffing guidelines, competency standards, and capacity-building;
- (c) School safety infrastructure, facilities, equipment, and security measures;
- (d) Learner protection, violence prevention, and anti-bullying mechanisms;
- (e) Digital safety, responsible technology use, and cybersecurity;
- (f) Learner well-being, mental health promotion, counseling services, and psychosocial support;
- (g) Emergency preparedness, disaster risk reduction and management, crisis response, recovery, and business continuity;
- (h) Reporting school safety concerns such as those involving school bullying and violence;
- (i) Assessment, referral, case management, and inter-agency coordination to address concerns and mitigate risk;
- (j) Monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and continuous improvement; and
- (k) Such other standards as may be necessary to effectively implement this Act.

The Framework shall likewise harmonize and integrate existing laws, policies, and mechanisms on learner protection, anti-bullying, mental health, safe spaces, and workplace safety into a unified system.

The DepEd shall develop and periodically update model policies, templates, manuals, protocols, reporting forms, training modules, assessment tools, and other implementation resources necessary to assist schools in complying with this Act.

It shall periodically review and update the Framework to reflect emerging risks, evolving educational needs, technological developments, lessons learned from implementation, and global best practices on school safety.

SEC 5. Establishment of School Safety Plans. – Every school shall develop and annually update a School Safety Plan that contextualizes and operationalizes the Framework to its unique needs, risks, and resources, emphasizing the safety, protection, and well-being of learners, as well as school personnel. The Plan shall include:

- (a) School safety standards, including standards for prevention, response, and recovery;
- (b) Protocols and manuals for emergencies, including hotlines, designated hospitals, police stations, safety zones, evacuation areas, and a fixed-timeline referral pathway for serious threats and abuse;
- (c) Protective safety measures, including security infrastructure and equipment;
- (d) Policies on use of gadgets, social media, digital safety and cybersecurity, on and off campus;
- (e) Guidelines and protocols for off-campus activities;
- (f) Community engagement and partnership strategies;
- (g) Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

The School Head shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the School Safety Plan within the school. School Heads shall submit their School Safety Plan to the Schools Division Office (SDO) for review and approval at the beginning of each school year. The SDO shall ensure that the plan is aligned with the Framework and complies with the minimum standards set forth in this Act.

SEC. 6. School Safety Handbook. – Every school shall prepare, maintain, and regularly update a School Safety Handbook, as part of the school's Learner Handbook, to communicate essential school safety information to learners, parents or guardians, school personnel, visitors, and other members of the school community.

The School Safety Handbook shall present, in a clear, concise, accessible, and user-friendly manner, the school safety policies, procedures, emergency information, and learner support services that members of the school community need to know in order to promote safety and respond appropriately during emergencies and other school safety situations.

At a minimum, the School Safety Handbook shall contain:

- (a) The school's commitment to safety and learner well-being;
- (b) The School Code of Conduct and key school safety policies for learners and school personnel;
- (c) Procedures for reporting bullying, violence, abuse, discrimination, harassment, emergencies, and other school safety concerns;
- (d) Emergency procedures for fire, earthquakes, severe weather, lockdowns, medical emergencies, evacuations, and other applicable situations;

- (e) Emergency contact information for school officials, emergency responders, designated hospitals, and relevant government agencies;
- (f) School maps showing evacuation routes, emergency exits, assembly and evacuation areas, clinics, School Care Centers, guidance offices, nearest hospitals, and other important locations;
- (g) Visitor management procedures and campus access guidelines;
- (h) Learner support services, including counseling, psychosocial support, referral services, and School Care Centers;
- (i) Digital safety guidelines and responsible technology use; and
- (j) Such other practical school safety information as may be prescribed by the DepEd.

The School Safety Handbook shall be made readily available in printed and electronic formats, as appropriate, and shall be disseminated to learners, parents or guardians, school personnel, and other members of the school community at the beginning of every school year and whenever significant revisions are made.

Schools shall also conduct an annual orientation on the School Safety Handbook to ensure that members of the school community understand their rights, responsibilities, and the procedures for preventing and responding to safety-related concerns.

The School Safety Handbook shall be periodically reviewed in consultation with learners, parents or guardians, school personnel, and other relevant stakeholders.

CHAPTER II SCHOOL SAFETY POLICIES

SEC. 7. Policy on Safe School Culture. – Every school shall foster a safe, inclusive, respectful, and supportive school culture. Schools shall promote positive relationships, mutual respect, responsibility, resilience, and meaningful participation among all members of the school community through preventive, developmentally appropriate, and evidence-based policies, programs, and practices that strengthen positive behavior, social and emotional learning, respectful conflict resolution, and a shared commitment to maintaining a safe learning environment.

SEC. 8. Zero-Tolerance Policy Against Violence. – Every school shall adopt and enforce a zero-tolerance policy against all forms of violence, child abuse, neglect, exploitation, bullying, discrimination, harassment, gender-based violence, corporal punishment, retaliation, and other acts that threaten the safety, dignity, or well-being of learners and school personnel. Appropriate preventive, protective, restorative, and disciplinary measures shall be implemented to prevent, address, and respond to such acts.

SEC. 9. Anti-Bullying and Learner Protection Policy. – Every school shall adopt and implement a comprehensive Anti-Bullying and Learner Protection Policy that promotes the safety, dignity, rights, and well-being of all learners and ensures the prevention, early identification, prompt reporting, timely intervention, and appropriate resolution of incidents involving bullying, cyberbullying, violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation,

discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and other acts that threaten the safety or welfare of learners.

SEC. 10. *School Code of Conduct.* – The School Safety Handbook shall include a School Code of Conduct that promotes a culture of respect, responsibility, integrity, inclusivity, and accountability among members of the school community. The Code shall clearly define unacceptable acts, corresponding disciplinary and restorative interventions, and the rights and responsibilities of all members of the school community. In implementing the Code, schools shall ensure that disciplinary measures are fair, proportionate, developmentally appropriate, non-discriminatory, and restorative in nature, with due regard for the best interests of the child, due process, and the rights of school personnel.

SEC. 11. *Learner Participation and Voice.* – Every school shall recognize and promote the right of learners to participate meaningfully in matters affecting their safety, well-being, and school life, consistent with their evolving capacities and the best interests of the child.

Schools shall establish age-appropriate, inclusive, and child-friendly mechanisms through which learners may express their views, report safety concerns, contribute to school safety initiatives, and participate in the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of school safety policies and programs.

Learner participation shall be voluntary, safe, respectful, and free from discrimination, retaliation, or intimidation.

SEC. 12. *Consistency with Existing Laws and Policies.* – The policies, programs, standards, and procedures adopted and implemented pursuant to this Act shall be consistent with existing laws, rules and regulations, and applicable policies of the DepEd on child protection, anti-bullying, positive discipline, mental health, gender-based violence, safe spaces, learner welfare, and other matters relating to the safety, dignity, rights, and well-being of learners and school personnel.

TITLE III SCHOOL SAFETY GOVERNANCE

SEC. 13. *School Safety Governance.* – Every school shall establish a comprehensive school safety governance system to ensure the effective implementation of this Act and to promote a safe, secure, inclusive, supportive, and resilient learning environment.

Every school shall organize or designate an appropriate school safety governance mechanism composed of school personnel responsible for learner protection, counseling and psychosocial support, school safety and security, health services, disaster risk reduction and management, and other functions as may be prescribed by the DepEd.

SEC. 14. *Key School Safety Personnel.* – Every school shall ensure the availability of qualified school personnel necessary to effectively implement this Act.

The DepEd shall prescribe staffing standards, competency requirements, qualifications, deployment guidelines, and continuing professional development requirements for key school safety personnel. It shall progressively strengthen the staffing of key school safety personnel in public schools, consistent with national staffing standards and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(a) School Head. – The School Head shall serve as the overall lead for the implementation of this Act at the school level, and shall:

1. Approve and oversee the implementation of the School Safety Plan;
2. Ensure compliance with national school safety standards;
3. Provide leadership in fostering a safe, inclusive, and supportive school environment;
4. Allocate school resources to support school safety initiatives;
5. Ensure coordination among school personnel, parents, local government units, concerned agencies, and relevant stakeholders;
6. Oversee incident management and post-incident recovery; and
7. Perform such other responsibilities as may be prescribed by the DepEd.

(b) School Counselor and School Counselor Associates. – Pursuant to Republic Act No. 12080, or the Basic Education Mental Health and Well-Being Promotion Act, the School Counselor shall serve as the lead professional responsible for guidance, counseling, learner mental health promotion, psychosocial support, and behavioral interventions and shall:

1. Provide counseling services;
2. Conduct risk and psychosocial assessments;
3. Lead mental health promotion initiatives;
4. Coordinate referrals to appropriate service providers;
5. Support case management involving learners requiring specialized intervention;
6. Provide technical guidance to school personnel on learner well-being; and
7. Perform such other responsibilities as may be prescribed by the Department.

School Counselor Associates shall assist the School Counselor in implementing learner support programs and shall help ensure the accessibility of guidance and psychosocial services.

(a) Learner Formation Officer. – Consistent with Republic Act No. 10627, or the Anti-Bullying Act of 2013, the Learner Formation Officer shall serve as the primary focal person for learner formation and the first responder to reports of bullying and other learner-related incidents. The Learner Formation Officer shall:

1. Receive, document, and facilitate the appropriate initial response to reports of bullying, peer violence, harassment, and other incidents involving learners;

2. Ensure that reported incidents are promptly referred to the School Head, guidance or counseling personnel, School Care Center, Child Protection Committee, or other appropriate authorities, as warranted;
3. Coordinate the implementation of preventive and formative programs that promote school culture;
4. Support the implementation of learner-led and peer-based initiatives, including peer mentoring, buddy systems, bystander and upstander programs, and other learner formation activities;
5. Promote learner awareness of their rights and responsibilities, the School Code of Conduct, reporting mechanisms, and available protection and support services;
6. Monitor patterns and recurring concerns involving bullying, peer violence, and learner behavior, and recommend appropriate preventive interventions; and
7. Coordinate with classroom advisers, guidance or counseling personnel, parents or guardians, and other appropriate school personnel in addressing learner safety and formation concerns.

(b) School Safety Officer. – Every school shall designate a School Safety Officer who shall serve as the principal coordinator for the implementation of school safety programs under this Act. The School Safety Officer shall:

1. Coordinate implementation of the School Safety Plan;
2. Monitor compliance with school safety standards;
3. Coordinate emergency preparedness activities;
4. Oversee school safety inspections;
5. Coordinate reporting and documentation;
6. Facilitate coordination with government agencies and emergency responders;
7. Support school safety training and drills; and
8. Perform such other responsibilities as may be prescribed by the DepEd.
9. Pending the creation of plantilla positions as may be authorized by law, the School Safety Officer may be designated from among qualified existing school personnel.

(c) School Health Personnel. – School nurses, school physicians, school dentists, and other qualified school health personnel shall provide health services and support school health and wellness programs consistent with existing laws and DepEd policies. They shall:

1. Provide appropriate school health services;
2. Participate in emergency preparedness and response;
3. Support mental health and psychosocial interventions;
4. Assist in health promotion and disease prevention activities;
5. Coordinate referrals to health facilities; and
6. Perform such other responsibilities as may be prescribed by the DepEd.

(d) Security Personnel. – Security guards and other authorized security personnel shall help maintain a safe and secure school environment.

They shall:

1. Regulate access to school premises;
2. Implement visitor management procedures;
3. Assist in emergency response;
4. Report security incidents;
5. Support the implementation of campus safety measures; and
6. Perform such other responsibilities as may be prescribed by the DepEd.

Schools shall be provided with adequate security guards or trained security personnel, taking into consideration school size, enrollment, operating hours, location, and security risk, in coordination with the LGU.

(e) Classroom Adviser. The Classroom Adviser shall promote learner well-being within the classroom and serve as the primary point of contact for learners and parents on routine learner welfare concerns. The Classroom Adviser shall:

1. Monitor learner well-being and classroom climate;
2. Identify learners requiring additional support;
3. Coordinate with the School Counselor and other school personnel on appropriate interventions;
4. Maintain communication with parents or guardians regarding learner welfare;
5. Promote positive discipline and learner participation; and
6. Perform such other responsibilities as may be prescribed by the DepEd.

In recognition of their critical role in safeguarding the safety and well-being of learners, every Classroom Adviser shall be provided with the commensurate teaching loads dedicated exclusively to learner safety and well-being responsibilities, including learner monitoring, parent engagement, case documentation, home visitation when necessary, participation in case conferences, implementation of interventions, and coordination with other school personnel for student safety.

The DepEd shall ensure that the corresponding teaching load reduction, staffing requirements, and funding necessary to implement this provision are reflected in its staffing standards and annual appropriations.

SEC. 15. *Responsibilities of Government Agencies.* – For the effective implementation of this Act, the concerned government agencies shall be responsible for the following:

- (a) DepEd. - The DepEd shall serve as the lead agency responsible for the implementation of this Act and shall exercise overall policy direction, coordination, supervision, monitoring, and evaluation of the National Comprehensive School Safety Framework.

In addition to its responsibilities under other applicable laws, the DepEd shall:

1. Formulate and periodically update national policies, standards, guidelines, and operational manuals for school safety;
 2. Prescribe minimum standards for school safety infrastructure, equipment, staffing, programs, and services;
 3. Provide schools with technical assistance, capacity-building, and implementation support;
 4. Develop model School Safety Plan, School Safety Handbooks, reporting systems, and other implementation tools;
 5. Establish national systems for school safety monitoring, reporting, and evaluation;
 6. Provide financial and technical support, subject to the availability of appropriations, to strengthen school safety implementation;
 7. Coordinate with relevant government agencies and stakeholders; and
 8. Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out this Act.
- (b) DOH. The DOH shall assist the DepEd in the implementation and strengthening of school mental health and psychosocial services, supporting emergency medical preparedness, and facilitating referral networks between schools and health facilities.
- (c) DSWD. - The DSWD shall provide technical assistance and support to schools in handling cases involving children in conflict with the law and victims of abuse. It shall also assist in the provision of psychosocial support and rehabilitation services for affected learners, families, and personnel, and shall coordinate with schools for the proper case management and referral of incidents.
- (d) DILG. - The DILG shall facilitate coordination between schools and LGUS and encourage local support for school safety initiatives.
- (e) PNP. - The PNP shall assist schools in maintaining campus security and in responding to incidents of violence and other threats. It shall coordinate with schools and LGUs for the deployment of security personnel, the conduct of security audits, and the enforcement of laws on the prohibition of deadly weapons in school premises.
- (f) LGUs. - LGUs shall support implementation of school safety programs, participate in local emergency planning, strengthen community partnerships, and assist schools in disaster preparedness and emergency response, consistent with their respective mandates and available resources:

The DepEd may enter into partnerships with other government agencies, state universities and colleges, civil society organizations, professional organizations, and the private sector to strengthen implementation of this Act.

SEC. 16. *Community Engagement.* - Schools shall promote meaningful participation among learners, parents or guardians, families, LGUs, community organizations, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders in the planning, implementation, monitoring, and continuous improvement of school safety programs.

Community participation shall complement and strengthen school-based efforts to create safe, secure, inclusive, supportive, and resilient learning environments.

Schools shall establish appropriate mechanisms to ensure that stakeholders are regularly informed, consulted, and engaged in school safety initiatives.

Parents and legal guardians shall be recognized as essential partners of schools in promoting the safety, well-being, and holistic development of learners. Parents and guardians shall be encouraged to support the implementation of school safety policies, reinforce positive behavior and learner well-being at home, promptly communicate safety concerns to the school, participate in school safety orientations, consultations, and emergency preparedness activities, and cooperate with school authorities in implementing interventions affecting their children.

Schools shall establish mechanisms to ensure meaningful parent and guardian participation in the implementation of the National Comprehensive School Safety Framework through regular communication, consultation, and collaborative interventions.

The Parents-Teachers Association shall serve as the primary organized partner of the school in promoting school safety and learner well-being.

The PTA shall participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review of the School Safety Plan, assist in promoting school safety awareness among parents and families, support school programs on school safety, assist the school in mobilizing community participation and volunteer support for school safety initiatives, and provide feedback on school safety concerns affecting learners and parents, subject to guidelines prescribed by the DepEd.

Every school shall establish a Child Protection Committee (CPC), composed of the School Head, School Safety Officer, School Counselor, and designated representatives of teachers, parents, learners, and the community. The CPC shall support the school in the prevention of and response to child abuse, violence, exploitation, discrimination, bullying, and other child protection concerns. The CPC shall, as may be applicable, assist in the implementation of child protection policies and preventive programs; facilitate the appropriate handling, referral, and follow-up of child protection concerns; coordinate with relevant school personnel, parents or guardians, the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC), the City or Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (C/MSWDO), and other appropriate authorities; and recommend measures to strengthen the school's child protection mechanisms.

The establishment or functioning of a CPC shall not relieve the School Head or any other responsible school personnel of their duties and accountability under this Act and other applicable child protection laws, rules, and policies.

The DepEd shall encourage and facilitate community partnerships that strengthen the implementation of this Act.

TITLE IV

PREVENTION

CHAPTER 1

SCHOOL SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROTECTIVE MEASURES

SEC. 17. *Safety Infrastructure and Equipment.* – Schools shall be equipped with appropriate safety infrastructure and security equipment, including, as applicable:

- (a) Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV). – CCTV cameras shall be installed in strategic areas, particularly entrances and exits, perimeter areas, common areas, and other locations identified through the school's risk assessment. CCTV shall not be installed in areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. The collection, storage, access, use, and disposal of CCTV footage shall comply with applicable data privacy laws and regulations.
- (b) Screening Equipment. – Schools shall have access to appropriate screening equipment, including handheld metal detectors, where warranted by the school's risk profile. Screening shall be conducted by authorized and appropriately trained personnel in a reasonable, proportionate, non-discriminatory, and child-sensitive manner.
- (c) Visitor Management System. – Schools shall establish appropriate systems to regulate and monitor visitor entry into and movement within school premises, including visitor identification, registration, verification, and access control.
- (d) Security Personnel and Protective Presence. – Schools shall ensure appropriate security and protective presence based on their size, enrollment, location, and risk profile. This may include licensed security guards and coordinated support from the Philippine National Police (PNP), barangay tanods, safety officers, community volunteers, and other authorized personnel.
- (e) Perimeter and Access Security. – Schools shall maintain appropriate physical measures to secure school boundaries and regulate access, including, as appropriate, gates, fencing, lighting, locks, barriers, and other protective infrastructure.

SEC. 18. *Emergency, Health, and Life-Safety Equipment.* – Schools shall be equipped with appropriate emergency, health, and life-safety equipment, including, as applicable:

- (a) first aid kits and essential emergency medical supplies;
- (b) fire extinguishers and other required fire safety equipment;
- (c) emergency lighting, flashlights, batteries, emergency power supplies, and other disaster preparedness supplies;
- (d) rescue and evacuation equipment appropriate to identified hazards; and
- (e) emergency communication and alert systems, including public address systems, alarms, emergency notification systems, two-way radios, and other equipment.

SEC. 19. *Preventive Safety Measures.* – Every school shall implement preventive safety measures appropriate to its circumstances to reduce risks, strengthen preparedness, and promote a safe and secure learning environment. At a minimum, schools shall implement:

- (a) Risk Mapping and Assessment. – Regularly identify physical, social, behavioral, environmental, and digital risks, including locations and circumstances that may increase the likelihood of violence, bullying, abuse, harassment, accidents, emergencies, or other threats. Findings shall inform the School Safety Plan and preventive interventions.
- (b) Campus Security Monitoring. – Maintain appropriate monitoring measures, including security patrols, monitoring of entrances and exits, observation of common and high-risk areas, and review of security camera footage where available, consistent with the school's risk profile and applicable privacy and child protection laws.
- (c) Visitor Screening. – Establish procedures for visitor identification, registration, verification, issuance of passes where appropriate, and monitoring of visitor access, while ensuring access for emergency responders and other authorized persons.
- (d) Reasonable Screening and Inspection. – Conduct screening of persons and belongings, including bag inspections or use of metal detectors, where authorized and warranted by the school's risk assessment and applicable DepEd standards. Screening shall be conducted by authorized personnel in a respectful, non-discriminatory, child-sensitive, and developmentally appropriate manner.
- (e) Confiscation and Disposition of Prohibited Items. – Establish procedures for the identification, confiscation, documentation, safekeeping, turnover, and lawful disposition of prohibited items, including appropriate due process, notification of parents or guardians when necessary, and coordination with authorities when required by law.
- (f) Emergency Drills. – Regularly conduct age-appropriate, developmentally appropriate, and inclusive drills for fires, earthquakes, severe weather, medical emergencies, and other relevant hazards. Where appropriate, drills may address active threats and other security incidents, subject to DepEd standards and relevant protocols.
- (g) Safety Orientation and Awareness. – Provide age-appropriate and role-appropriate safety orientation for learners, school personnel, and, where appropriate, parents, guardians, and other members of the school community, including relevant safety policies, emergency procedures, reporting mechanisms, and proper use of safety equipment.
- (h) Safety Audits and Preventive Maintenance. – Conduct an annual School Safety Audit and regular inspections of infrastructure, facilities, equipment, emergency systems, and other safety measures, and implement corrective and preventive measures based on identified hazards and deficiencies. Findings shall inform the School Safety Plan and resource priorities.

SEC. 20. *General Standards for School Safety Measures.* – All school safety policies, infrastructure, equipment, and measures under this Chapter shall be appropriate to the school's size, enrollment, location, risk profile, available resources, and specific needs.

The DepEd, in coordination with relevant national government agencies and other stakeholders, shall establish national standards and operational guidelines for the provision, implementation, use, maintenance, and monitoring of infrastructure and

equipment under this Chapter, including, where applicable, their installation, inspection, replacement, and data management and disposal.

CHAPTER II SAFETY DURING OFF-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

SEC. 21. *Safety During Off-Campus Activities.* – Schools conducting authorized off-campus activities shall adopt and implement measures to ensure the safety, security, health, and well-being of learners and school personnel participating in such activities.

Prior to any authorized off-campus activity, the school shall conduct an appropriate risk assessment and prepare an activity-specific safety plan, which shall include learner supervision arrangements and designated personnel-in-charge, transportation safety measures, emergency communication and response procedures, emergency contact information for participating learners, and such other safety measures as may be prescribed by DepEd.

Schools shall also ensure full disclosure to parents or guardians of information regarding the activity, including the objectives of the itinerary, transport arrangements, accommodations, identified risks, emergency procedures, and contact information of responsible personnel. Schools shall likewise ensure that appropriate informed consent is secured in accordance with applicable laws and DepEd policies.

The DepEd shall prescribe minimum operational standards governing educational tours, work immersion, athletic competitions, cultural activities, community engagement activities, and other authorized off-campus activities.

CHAPTER III DIGITAL SAFETY AND RESPONSIBLE TECHNOLOGY USE

SEC. 22. *Digital Safety and Responsible Technology Use.* - Schools shall adopt and implement comprehensive policies and programs that promote safe, responsible, ethical, and age-appropriate use of digital technologies in support of teaching, learning, communication, and school operations.

Schools shall establish measures to protect learners and school personnel from cyberbullying, online abuse, cybersecurity risks, and other forms of harm. Such measures may include media and information literacy programs, orientation programs for parents and guardians, procedures for reporting and responding to digital safety incidents, and other digital safety measures as may be prescribed by the DepEd.

School heads may regulate or prohibit the use portable electronic devices during instructional periods, subject to exceptions for academic purposes, accessibility needs, emergencies, and other legitimate purposes consistent with applicable DepEd policies.

Implementation of this Section shall be consistent with applicable laws on child protection, data privacy, cybersecurity, and online safety.

CHAPTER IV

LEARNER WELL-BEING

SEC. 23. *Learner Well-Being and Psychosocial Support.* – Schools shall establish and implement comprehensive learner well-being and psychosocial support programs that promote positive mental health, resilience, social and emotional development, and learner engagement. These programs shall include:

- (a) Socio-Emotional Learning (SEL). – The DepEd shall institutionalize an SEL program within schools. This shall be in coordination with the School Care Center, pursuant to Republic Act No. 12080. The program may include orientations for teachers and parents or guardians on mental health and emotional check-ins, learning sessions during homeroom periods on basic SEL processes, and the provision of resources to support mental and emotional health, including hotlines.
- (b) Peer Mentoring and Buddy Systems. – Schools may establish age-appropriate peer mentoring and buddy systems to foster positive relationships, social connectedness, mutual respect, and a sense of belonging among learners. Such programs may include peer mentoring and support networks, buddy systems for learners with disabilities or other learners requiring additional support, and other initiatives that promote inclusion, leadership, empathy, and shared responsibility within the school community. Peer mentors and buddies shall receive appropriate orientation, training, and adult supervision. These programs shall complement, and not replace, the responsibilities of teachers, guidance personnel, school counselors, or other school authorities in ensuring learner safety, well-being, and access to appropriate interventions and referral services.
- (c) Bystander and Upstander Programs. Schools shall implement developmentally appropriate programs that educate learners on the role of upstanders and empower them to safely intervene in or report bullying and violence. These programs shall emphasize empathy, courage, and collective responsibility.

TITLE V RESPONSE

SEC. 24. *Incident Reporting, Assessment and Immediate Response.* – Every school shall establish and maintain responsive mechanisms and protocols for the reporting, assessment, protection interventions, and immediate response to school safety concerns involving learners, school personnel, and other members of the school community. Such mechanisms shall form part of the School Safety Plan and shall be implemented in accordance with this Act and applicable laws.

Schools shall ensure that the implementation of this Section is guided by the principles of child protection and the best interests of the child, confidentiality and respect for privacy, timely intervention, trauma-informed and developmentally appropriate practices, due process, coordinated inter-agency response, and survivor-centered, rights-based, and restorative approaches, where appropriate.

Schools shall ensure the availability of multiple reporting channels, which may include in-person reporting, anonymous reporting systems, digital reporting platforms,

designated reporting officers, emergency hotlines, and such other reporting mechanisms as may be prescribed by the DepEd.

Upon receipt of a report, the school shall:

- (a) Immediately record the report;
- (b) Conduct an initial risk assessment;
- (c) Determine whether immediate protective measures are necessary;
- (d) Notify the School Head and appropriate school personnel;
- (e) Notify parents or guardians, where appropriate;
- (f) Activate emergency response procedures when necessary;
- (g) Document actions taken; and
- (h) Determine whether referral or case management should be initiated.

Where there is imminent danger to life, safety, or security, schools shall immediately coordinate with emergency responders and appropriate government authorities.

Every school shall ensure that all members of the school community are informed of the reporting mechanisms, available support services, and emergency procedures established under this Act. Schools shall likewise ensure that reporting mechanisms are accessible to learners with disabilities and other learners requiring additional support.

Every school shall maintain updated emergency contact information and establish procedures for the immediate notification of parents or guardians, emergency responders, LGUs, and other appropriate authorities during emergencies and critical incidents.

SEC. 25. Referral, Case Management, and Coordination. - Every school shall establish a formal case management and referral system for learners requiring continuing intervention and support.

The system shall provide for:

- (a) Designation of case managers, where appropriate;
- (b) Multidisciplinary case conferences involving relevant school personnel;
- (c) Counseling and psychosocial interventions;
- (d) Referral to hospitals, health professionals, psychologists, social workers, child protection authorities, law enforcement agencies, or other service providers;
- (e) Development of individualized intervention plans, where appropriate;
- (f) Regular monitoring and follow-up;
- (g) Coordination with parents or guardians;
- (h) Documentation and secure case records; and
- (i) Safe reintegration into the school community.

The DepEd shall establish standardized case management forms, referral protocols, documentation procedures, and inter-agency coordination mechanisms to promote consistency across schools.

Schools shall coordinate with the DSWD, the DOJ, the PNP, and LGUs for the proper handling of cases, including children in conflict with the law, and for the provision of medical, legal, and psychosocial support.

TITLE VI RECOVERY AND REINTEGRATION

SEC. 26. *Recovery and Reintegration.* – Schools shall establish and implement recovery and reintegration measures for learners, school personnel, and other affected members of the school community.

Recovery measures shall aim to restore safety, promote healing, minimize disruption to learning, strengthen resilience, and facilitate the safe return of affected persons to school.

Schools shall, at a minimum:

- (a) Provide timely counseling, psychosocial support, psychological first aid, and other appropriate interventions;
- (b) Develop individualized intervention and reintegration plans for learners or school personnel requiring continuing support, where appropriate;
- (c) Implement academic accommodations and learning continuity measures for affected learners;
- (d) Engage parents or guardians in planning and supporting the recovery of affected learners;
- (e) Coordinate referrals to appropriate government agencies, health professionals, and community-based service providers;
- (f) Monitor the progress of affected learners and school personnel following reintegration;
- (g) Implement measures to prevent retaliation, stigmatization, discrimination, or re-traumatization; and
- (h) Conduct post-incident reviews to identify lessons learned and improve school safety systems.

Recovery and reintegration measures shall be developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and consistent with the best interests of the child.

SEC. 27. *National Support for School Recovery and Continuous Improvement.* – The DepEd shall establish a National School Recovery and Support Program to strengthen the capacity of schools to respond to and recover from incidents affecting school safety and learner well-being.

The Program shall include:

- (a) Technical assistance to affected schools;
- (b) Deployment of specialized psychosocial support teams, where appropriate;
- (c) Development of standardized recovery and reintegration protocols;
- (d) Capacity-building for school personnel on post-incident recovery;

- (e) Technical assistance for learning continuity and academic recovery;
- (f) Collection and analysis of post-incident data and lessons learned;
- (g) Dissemination of good practices and model recovery interventions; and
- (h) Such other support measures as may be prescribed by the DepEd.

The DepEd shall coordinate with the DOH, the DSWD, LGUs, and other appropriate agencies to strengthen community-based recovery and reintegration services.

Subject to the availability of appropriations, the DepEd shall prioritize technical assistance and specialized support for schools significantly affected by major emergencies, disasters, violence, or other critical incidents.

The DepEd may organize or designate regional or division-level multidisciplinary support teams to provide technical assistance, psychosocial support, crisis intervention, and other specialized services to schools affected by major incidents, emergencies, or disasters.

TITLE VII PROTECTION OF SCHOOL PERSONNEL

SEC. 28. Protection and Support for School Personnel. – All schools shall ensure that school personnel receive appropriate protection, support, and resources necessary to safely and effectively perform their responsibilities under this Act.

Such measures shall include:

- (a) Access to counseling, psychosocial support, employee wellness, and mental health services;
- (b) Training and continuing professional development on school safety, learner protection, emergency preparedness, and crisis management;
- (c) Appropriate legal assistance and institutional support for school personnel acting in good faith in the performance of official duties;
- (d) Protection against retaliation, intimidation, harassment, or threats arising from the implementation of school safety measures;
- (e) Provision of appropriate personal protective equipment, emergency equipment, and occupational safety measures where necessary;
- (f) Access to post-incident debriefing and recovery support following critical incidents;
- (g) Recognition of school safety responsibilities in workload planning and administrative support; and
- (h) Such other measures as may be prescribed by the DepEd.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish existing rights, benefits, and protections available to school personnel under existing laws.

TITLE VIII MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

SEC. 29. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Accountability. – The DepEd shall establish a comprehensive national monitoring and evaluation system to assess compliance with

this Act, measure the effectiveness of school safety programs, and support evidence-based planning, policymaking, budgeting, and continuous improvement.

The monitoring and evaluation system shall include:

- (a) Monitoring of compliance with the National Comprehensive School Safety Framework and the minimum standards established under this Act;
- (b) Periodic review of School Safety Plans and School Safety Handbooks;
- (c) Assessment of school safety infrastructure, equipment, personnel, and services;
- (d) Monitoring of school safety incidents, trends, response times, recovery outcomes, and implementation of corrective actions;
- (e) Collection and analysis of data on learner well-being, school climate, violence prevention, bullying, digital safety, emergency preparedness, and other school safety indicators;
- (f) Monitoring of capacity-building activities and competency development of school personnel;
- (g) Periodic compliance assessments of public and private schools; and
- (h) Such other monitoring mechanisms as may be prescribed by the DepEd.

SEC. 30. *National School Safety Information System.* – The DepEd shall establish and maintain a National School Safety Information System to support planning, monitoring, research, policy development, and resource allocation under this Act.

The System shall collect, consolidate, analyze, and report information on:

- (a) Incidents involving violence, bullying, abuse, discrimination, harassment, emergencies, disasters, and other school safety concerns;
- (b) Learner well-being, school climate, and behavioral trends;
- (c) Implementation of school safety programs, infrastructure, equipment, and personnel;
- (d) Emergency preparedness and disaster resilience;
- (e) Digital safety and technology-related incidents;
- (f) Implementation of recovery and reintegration measures;
- (g) Capacity-building and professional development activities;
- (h) School safety performance indicators; and
- (i) Such other information as may be prescribed by the DepEd.

Information collected under this Section shall be used to support evidence-based policymaking, strategic planning, budget preparation, program evaluation, and continuous improvement of school safety programs.

The collection, processing, storage, sharing, and publication of information under this Section shall comply with applicable laws on child protection, confidentiality, and data privacy.

SEC. 31. *Annual School Safety Report.* – Every school shall submit an Annual School Safety Report to the DepEd, through the Schools Division Office, summarizing the implementation of its School Safety Plan, including the status of school safety

implementation, significant incidents and trends, actions taken, implementation challenges, resource needs, and such other information as may be prescribed by the DepEd.

The Schools Division Office shall review the reports submitted by schools and provide appropriate technical assistance, recommendations, and other support necessary to address identified gaps and strengthen the implementation of School Safety Plans.

The DepEd shall prescribe the form, content, submission schedule, and reporting procedures for the Annual School Safety Report.

SEC. 32. National School Safety Report to Congress. – The DepEd shall submit a National School Safety Report to Congress every two years summarizing the nationwide implementation of this Act and the National Comprehensive School Safety Framework, including national school safety trends, significant findings, implementation status, emerging challenges, and recommendations for policy, programmatic, and budgetary improvements.

The National School Safety Report shall be made publicly available, subject to applicable laws on child protection, confidentiality, and data privacy.

TITLE IX FINAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 33. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DepEd.

Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the full implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 34. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The DepEd, in coordination with the DOH, DSWD, DILG, and other relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within sixty (60) days from its effectivity.

SEC. 35. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 36. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 37. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,