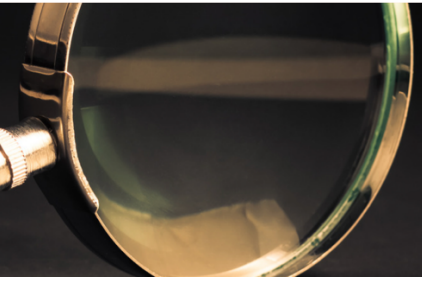




LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE
QUICK NOTES
THIRD REGULAR SESSION, 19TH CONGRESS



Public Hearing of the Committee on Basic Education

Chairperson: Sen. Win Gatchalian

8 May 2025, Thursday, 10:00 a.m., Sen. Recto Room, Senate

Re: Department of Education's (DepEd) Strengthened Senior High School (SHS) Program, Which Will be Piloted in School Year 2025-2026

Background

- The Department of Education (DepEd) is set to pilot a strengthened Senior High School (SHS) curriculum in School Year (SY) 2025–2026, aiming to enhance the relevance and flexibility of education for Filipino learners.
- DepEd has initiated public consultations to gather feedback on the proposed curriculum changes. A consultation packet was made available online from April 4 to April 11, 2025, inviting educators, students, parents, and other stakeholders to participate in refining the curriculum.¹

Highlights of the Strengthened SHS Curriculum

- **Streamlined Core Subjects:** The number of core subjects will be reduced from 15 to 5, focusing on essential competencies: Effective Communication (Mabisang Komunikasyon), Life Skills, General Mathematics, General Science, and Pag-aaral ng Kasaysayan at Lipunang Pilipino.²
- **Flexible Electives:** Students will have the freedom to choose electives across various clusters, such as Academic and TechPro, allowing them to tailor their education based on interests and career goals. This approach moves away from rigid strand-based subject assignments.³
- **"Doorway Option":** Learners can opt to take subjects from different clusters, facilitating interdisciplinary learning and broader skill development.⁴

¹ [DepEd opens consultation for revised SHS curriculum | GMA News Online](#)

² [DepEd opens consultation for revised SHS curriculum | GMA News Online](#)

³ [DepEd opens consultation for revised SHS curriculum | GMA News Online](#)

⁴ [DepEd Eyes Major SHS Curriculum Reforms For School Year 2025–2026](#)

- **Pilot Testing:** The revised curriculum will be piloted in selected schools during SY 2025–2026.
- **Phased Rollout:** Based on the outcomes of the pilot, DepEd will determine the feasibility of a full-scale implementation in all SHS programs by SY 2026–2027.⁵

Possible Points for Discussion

- **Curriculum Design and Relevance:** a) Will the reduced core subjects sufficiently cover essential foundational knowledge; b) How well do the new electives align with industry demands and higher education pathways; and c) Is the "doorway option" practical for schools with limited resources or faculty?
- **Implementation Challenges:** a) Are schools equipped (infrastructure, staffing, training) to implement the revised curriculum; b) What support systems (budget, training modules, resource materials) are in place for pilot schools; and c) How will DepEd ensure quality and consistency across pilot sites?
- **Student Impact:** a) Will the curriculum allow students to make more informed choices about careers or college courses; b) Could the increased flexibility lead to confusion or poor guidance in course selection; and c) How will learner interests and needs be balanced with national labor market trends?
- **Equity and Access:** a) Will students in rural or underfunded schools have equal access to a full range of elective options; and b) How can DepEd prevent widening gaps between well-resourced and less-resourced schools?

⁵ [DepEd opens consultation for revised SHS curriculum | GMA News Online](#)