

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE ]  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES ]  
Third Regular Session ]

24 SEP 10 P5:40

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 1191

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Introduced by SENATOR WIN GATCHALIAN

**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN  
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROPOSED REGULAR  
ACADEMIC PROGRAM SUSPENSION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT AN EFFECTIVE LEARNING RECOVERY  
PROGRAM, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROPOSING POLICY  
RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE PROPOSED SUSPENSION**

1 **WHEREAS**, it is a policy of the State to protect and promote the right of  
2 all citizens to quality education at all levels.<sup>1</sup> The State shall also establish,  
3 maintain and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of  
4 education relevant to the needs of the people and society;<sup>2</sup>

5  
6 **WHEREAS**, over half of children in low- and middle- income countries  
7 experienced learning poverty, meaning they were unable to understand a  
8 simple written text by the end of primary school,<sup>3</sup> and learning poverty in the  
9 Philippines is 56.4 percentage points higher than the average for the East Asia  
10 and Pacific region and 30.5 percentage points higher than the average for

<sup>1</sup> 1987 Philippine Constitution, Article XIV, Sec. 1.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* at Sec. 2.

<sup>3</sup> <https://datatopics.worldbank.org/sdgatlas/goal-4-quality-education/?lang=en>

1 lower middle-income countries;<sup>4</sup>

2  
3 **WHEREAS**, the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) for  
4 2022 student assessment worldwide showed that the Philippines ranked only  
5 77th out of 81 countries for 15-year-old learners,<sup>5</sup> which revealed that Filipino  
6 learners possessed low proficiency in reading, mathematics, and science;<sup>6</sup>

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, the Southeast Asian Primary Learning Metrics 2019<sup>7</sup> (SEA-  
9 PLM 2019), a large-scale student learning assessment program designed by  
10 and for countries in the Southeast Asian Region to assess Grade 5 students'  
11 learning outcomes, revealed that only 10% were able to meet the reading  
12 proficiency level at the end of primary education, 46% belonged to the lowest  
13 proficiency band in writing literacy, and only about 42% met the minimum  
14 proficiency at the end of the lower primary education in mathematics;

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study  
17 (TIMSS) revealed the poor performance of Grade 4 students in the 2019  
18 assessment of their math and science proficiencies;<sup>8</sup>

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, under Department Order (DO) No. 014, s. 2023, dated July  
21 3, 2023, the Department of Education (DepEd) has adopted the National  
22 Learning Camp<sup>9</sup> as part of the National Learning Recovery Program<sup>10</sup> to  
23 establish short- and medium- term strategies to improve learning  
24 performance;

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, the Senate Committee on Basic Education<sup>11</sup> and the Second  
27 Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II) revealed that only half

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<sup>4</sup><https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099000207152223103/pdf/IDU002b5536c0db4104ec3087d809906ec2eae56.pdf>

<sup>5</sup><https://gpseducation.oecd.org/CountryProfile?plotter=h5&primaryCountry=PHL&treshold=5&topic=PI>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.pids.gov.ph/details/news/in-the-news/philippine-education-creating-something-out-of-nothing-opinion-piece-by-diwa-c-guinigundo>

<sup>7</sup><https://www.unicef.org/philippines/media/2556/file/Southeast%20Asia%20Primary%20Learning%20Metrics%202019%20National%20Report%20of%20the%20Philippines.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.iea.nl/sites/default/files/2021-01/TIMSS%202019-International-Results-in-Mathematics-and-Science.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> DO No. 014, s. 2023 dated July 3, 2023, which provides a two-fold objective: to improve learner outcomes and to strengthen teacher competence.

<sup>10</sup> DO No. 013, s. 2023 dated July 3, 2023, which aims to close learning gaps and assist learners in all public elementary and secondary schools nationwide in attaining learning standards.

<sup>11</sup> Dated August 7, 2024; Public Hearing on School Opening for SY 2024-2025, Textbooks and Learning Materials, National Learning Camp, and Education in BARMM.

1 of the total learners were assessed and only 10% of learners needing  
2 intervention attended learning camps due to the voluntary nature of the  
3 program;<sup>12</sup>  
4

5 **WHEREAS**, in 2020, the Advancing Basic Education in the Philippines  
6 (ABC+) Project of the DepEd, in partnership with the U.S. Agency for  
7 International Development (USAID) and implemented by RTI International,  
8 together with The Asia Foundation, SIL LEAD, Florida State University, and  
9 the University of the Philippines-NISMED, proposed an 8-week program  
10 related to learning recovery and continuity for literacy development;<sup>13</sup>  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, from 2020 to 2024, the ABC+ 8-week Learning Recovery  
13 Curriculum<sup>14</sup> for grades 1 to 3 was implemented in Regions V (Bicol) and VI  
14 (Western Visayas), where Grade 1 Mother Tongue total learners scores  
15 increased by 88%, Grade 2 Filipino total learners scores increased by 40%,  
16 Grade 2 total English learners scores increased by 42%, and Grade 3 total  
17 English learners scores increased by 30%;<sup>15</sup>  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, on July 22, 2024, EDCOM II Co-Chairperson and  
20 Congressman Roman T. Romulo and then Commissioner and Congressman  
21 Jose Francisco B. Benitez filed House Resolution No. 1805, titled “Resolution  
22 Urging the Department of Education to Suspend the Regular Academic  
23 Program for Eight to Twelve Weeks to Implement an Effective Learning  
24 Recovery Program that Ensures Learners Attain Functional Literacy and  
25 Numeracy”, which will suspend the regular school schedule for eight weeks  
26 to allow the uninterrupted and focused implementation of the learning  
27 recovery program;  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, to address the abovementioned concerns, the DepEd  
30 proposed to adopt the Eight-Week Literacy and Numeracy Program for Grades  
31 1 to 3 following the ABC+ model, for implementation in the first quarter of  
32 School Year (SY) 2025-2026, and a special Science program with literacy and  
33 numeracy components for Grades 7 to 10 to begin on the third quarter of this  
34 SY, which will suspend the regular Basic Education academic program;

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<sup>12</sup> [http://legacy.senate.gov.ph/press\\_release/2024/0807\\_edcom1.asp](http://legacy.senate.gov.ph/press_release/2024/0807_edcom1.asp)

<sup>13</sup> [https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PA0211RC.pdf](https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA0211RC.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Aims to Improve early grade instruction and delivery systems, improve access to quality materials, and improve education system capacity and commitment to manage and implement interventions supporting effective early grade instruction.

<sup>15</sup> USAID ABC+ Advancing Basic Education in the Philippines. Learning Recovery Curriculum Initial Evaluation. January 11, 2023

1       **WHEREAS**, the learning targets of the DepEd-proposed Eight-Week  
2 Literacy and Numeracy Program are:

- 3           • Eight-Week Literacy and Numeracy Program: To achieve  
4 improved proficiency by attaining at least one proficiency  
5 higher than their current level in literacy and numeracy; and
- 6           • Science Program: To show an improvement in Science  
7 scores and improve the proficiency levels of those in the literacy  
8 and numeracy component of the program;

9  
10       **WHEREAS**, considering the possible effect on learning outcomes and the  
11 fiscal impact of the Eight-Week Literacy and Numeracy Program by the  
12 DepEd, there is an urgent need to conduct a comprehensive review of the  
13 proposed regular academic suspension;

14  
15       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE**  
16 **PHILIPPINES**, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an  
17 inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the proposed regular academic program  
18 suspension in the Department of Education to implement an Effective  
19 Learning Recovery Program, for the purpose of proposing policy  
20 recommendations on the proposed suspension.

*Adopted,*



**WIN GATCHALIAN**