

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



25 JUN -2 P3:11

SENATE

S. No. 3001

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Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

AN ACT
RATIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE BASIC EDUCATION SYSTEM BY
REMOVING THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION, AMENDING
PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10533, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE "ENHANCED BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF 2013" AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 10533 or the "Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013" was passed with the goal to "create a functional basic education system that will develop productive and responsible citizens equipped with the essential competencies, skills and values for both life-long learning and employment". This law added two (2) new levels in the secondary education, namely Grade 11 and Grade 12, collectively known as Senior High School (SHS). SHS intends to align the Philippine education system with international standards by providing a bridge between secondary and tertiary education. SHS graduates are envisioned to be "holistically developed; equipped with 21st century skills; and prepared for the future, be it in the pursuit of higher education or acquisition of middle-level skills, or geared toward employment or entrepreneurship".¹

Since this reform was implemented, it was a subject of criticisms and objections from different sectors of the community. Twelve (12) years after the enactment of the said law, it still has not fully achieved its goal. In the public

¹ [pidspn2315.pdf](#)

hearing conducted by the Committee on Basic Education in the 19th Congress on May 8, 2025, no less than the Department of Education (DepEd) reported that “the SHS program has not yet reached its vision for the K to 12 graduates” because of:

- Congested curriculum and cognitive mismatch: excessive number of competencies limit instructional depth;
- Overworked students and teachers: instructional and homework time exceeds global standards; and
- Low labor participation: 10% of SHS completers enter the workforce, mostly in informal jobs.

During the same hearing, the survey on the “Satisfaction with the K to 12 Program of the Government” conducted by the Pulse Asia Research, Inc. from March 23 to 29, 2025, was presented which shows that only 32% of the respondents are satisfied, 42% are dissatisfied, and 25% cannot say if they are satisfied or dissatisfied. As to their “Satisfaction with the Senior High School of the K to 12 Program of the Government”, the responses are almost similar – 33% are satisfied, 40% are dissatisfied, and 27% cannot say if they are satisfied or dissatisfied. Historically, the satisfaction on the SHS program, as evidenced by surveys, has been decreasing over the years. In June 2023, 41% are satisfied. The satisfaction rate decreased to 35% in June 2024 and further declined to 33% in March 2025.

We cannot allow the learners and their parents to bear the burden of the time and the cost of taking SHS. This Representation received numerous feedback from learners and parents alike that they have not experienced the promised benefits of the implementation of SHS.

This measure seeks to amend Republic Act No. 10533 to remove the SHS from the basic education system. This Representation is optimistic that the government, together with its partners and stakeholders in the education sector, will be able to formulate programs that are effective, efficient, responsive and just for the benefit of the Filipino children and youth.

In this light, the immediate passage of this bill is highly recommended.



JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "*Rationalized Basic*
2 *Education Act*".

3 Sec. 2. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 10533, otherwise known as the
4 "Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013" is hereby amended to read as follows:

5 "SEC. 4. [~~Enhanced~~] **RATIONALIZED** Basic
6 *Education Program.* — The [~~enhanced~~] **RATIONALIZED**
7 basic education program encompasses at least one (1) year
8 of kindergarten education, six (6) years of elementary
9 education, and [~~six (6)~~] **FOUR (4)** years of secondary
10 education, in that sequence. [~~Secondary education includes~~
11 ~~four (4) years of junior high school and two (2) years of~~
12 ~~senior high school education.~~]

13 "Kindergarten education shall mean one (1) year of
14 preparatory education for children at least five (5) years old
15 as a prerequisite for Grade I.

1 "Elementary education refers to the second stage of
2 compulsory basic education which is composed of six (6)
3 years. The entrant age to this level is typically six (6) years
4 old.

5 "Secondary education refers to the third stage of
6 compulsory basic education. It consists of four (4) years of
7 ~~junior~~ high school education ~~and two (2) years of senior~~
8 ~~high school education~~. The entrant age to the ~~junior and~~
9 ~~senior~~ high school level ~~is~~ **IS** typically twelve (12)
10 ~~and sixteen (16) years old~~ ~~respectively~~.

11 "x x x."

12 Sec. 3. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 10533 is hereby amended to read as
13 follows:

14 "SEC. 5. *Curriculum Development.* — The DepED shall
15 formulate the design and details of the ~~enhanced~~
16 **RATIONALIZED** basic education curriculum. It shall work
17 with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to craft
18 harmonized basic and tertiary curricula for the global
19 competitiveness of Filipino graduates. To ensure college
20 readiness and to avoid remedial and duplication of basic
21 education subjects, the DepED shall coordinate with the
22 CHED and the Technical Education and Skills Development
23 Authority (TESDA).

24 "To achieve an effective ~~enhanced~~
25 **RATIONALIZED** basic education curriculum, the DepED
26 shall undertake consultations with other national
27 government agencies and other stakeholders including, but
28 not limited to, the Department of Labor and Employment
29 (DOLE), the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), the
30 private and public schools associations, the national student
31 organizations, the national teacher organizations, the

1 parents-teachers associations and the chambers of
2 commerce on matters affecting the concerned stakeholders.

3 "The DepED shall adhere to the following standards
4 and principles in developing the [enhanced]
5 **RATIONALIZED** basic education curriculum:

6 "(a) x x x;

7 "x x x."

8 Sec. 4. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 10533 is hereby amended to read as
9 follows:

10 "SEC. 7. *Teacher Education and Training.* — To
11 ensure that the [enhanced] **RATIONALIZED** basic
12 education program meets the demand for quality teachers
13 and school leaders, the DepED and the CHED, in
14 collaboration with relevant partners in government,
15 academe, industry, and nongovernmental organizations,
16 shall conduct teacher education and training programs, as
17 specified:

18 "(a) In-service Training on Content and Pedagogy —
19 Current DepED teachers shall be [re] trained to meet the
20 content and performance standards of the [new K to 12]
21 **BASIC EDUCATION** curriculum.

22 "The DepED shall ensure that private education
23 institutions shall be given the opportunity to avail of such
24 training.

25 "(b) Training of New Teachers. — New graduates of
26 the current Teacher Education curriculum shall undergo
27 additional training, upon hiring, to upgrade their skills to the
28 content standards of the [new] curriculum. Furthermore, the
29 CHED, in coordination with the DepED and relevant
30 stakeholders, shall ensure that the Teacher Education
31 curriculum offered in these Teacher Education Institutes
32 (TEIs) will meet necessary quality standards for new

1 teachers. Duly recognized organizations acting as TEIs, in
2 coordination with the DepED, the CHED, and other relevant
3 stakeholders, shall ensure that the curriculum of these
4 organizations meet the necessary quality standards for
5 trained teachers.

6 "(c) x x x."

7 Sec. 5. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 10533 is hereby amended to read as
8 follows:

9 "SEC. 10. *Expansion of E-GASTPE Beneficiaries.* — The
10 benefits accorded by Republic Act No. 8545, or the
11 "Expanded Government Assistance to Students and Teachers
12 in Private Education Act", shall be extended to qualified
13 students enrolled under the [enhanced] **RATIONALIZED**
14 basic education.

15 ~~"[The DepED shall engage the services of private~~
16 ~~education institutions and non-DepED schools offering senior~~
17 ~~high school through the programs under Republic Act No.~~
18 ~~8545, and other financial arrangements formulated by the~~
19 ~~DepED and the Department of Budget and Management~~
20 ~~(DBM) based on the principles of public-private partnership.]"~~

21 Sec. 6. Section 11 of Republic Act No. 10533 is hereby amended to read as
22 follows:

23 "SEC. 11. *Appropriations.* — The Secretary of
24 Education shall include in the Department's program the
25 operationalization of the [enhanced] **RATIONALIZED** basic
26 education program, the initial funding of which shall be
27 charged against the current appropriations of the DepED.
28 Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued
29 implementation of the [enhanced] **RATIONALIZED** basic
30 education program shall be included in the annual General
31 Appropriations Act."

1 Sec. 7. Section 12 of Republic Act No. 10533 is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 "SEC. 12. *Transitory Provisions.* — The DepED, the
4 CHED and the TESDA shall formulate the appropriate
5 strategies and mechanisms needed to ensure smooth
6 transition from the existing ~~ten (10)-years basic education~~
7 ~~cycle to the~~ enhanced basic education (K to 12) cycle **TO**
8 **THE RATIONALIZED BASIC EDUCATION.** The
9 strategies may cover changes in physical infrastructure,
10 manpower, organizational and structural concerns, bridging
11 models linking grade 10 competencies and the entry
12 requirements of new tertiary curricula, and partnerships
13 between the government and other entities. ~~Modeling for~~
14 ~~senior high school may be implemented in selected schools~~
15 ~~to simulate the transition process and provide concrete data~~
16 ~~for the transition plan.]~~

17 ~~"[To manage the initial implementation of the~~
18 ~~enhanced basic education program and mitigate the~~
19 ~~expected multi-year low enrolment turnout for HEIs and~~
20 ~~Technical Vocational Institutions (TVIs) starting School Year~~
21 ~~2016-2017, t]~~ The DepED shall **CONTINUE TO** engage in
22 partnerships with HEIs and TVIs for the utilization of the
23 latter's human and physical resources. Moreover, the
24 DepED, the CHED, the TESDA, the TVIs and the HEIs shall
25 coordinate closely with one another to implement strategies
26 that ensure the academic, physical, financial, and human
27 resource capabilities of HEIs and TVIs to provide
28 educational and training services for graduates of the
29 **[enhanced] RATIONALIZED** basic education program to
30 ensure that they are not adversely affected. The faculty of
31 HEIs and TVIs allowed to teach students of secondary
32 education under Section 8 hereof, shall be given priority in

1 hiring for the duration of the transition period. For this
2 purpose, the transition period shall be provided for in the
3 implementing rules and regulations (IRR)."

4 Sec. 8. Section 13 of Republic Act No. 10533 is hereby amended to read as
5 follows:

6 "SEC. 13. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee*
7 *on the [Enhanced] **RATIONALIZED** Basic Educational*
8 *Program [~~{K to 12 Program}~~].* — There is hereby created a
9 Joint Oversight Committee to oversee, monitor and evaluate
10 the implementation of this Act.

11 "The Oversight Committee shall be composed of five
12 (5) members each from the Senate and from the House of
13 Representatives, including Chairs of the Committees on
14 **BASIC** Education [~~, Arts and Culture,~~] and Finance of both
15 Houses. The membership of the Committee for every House
16 shall have at least two (2) opposition or minority members."

17 Sec. 9. Section 14 of Republic Act No. 10533 is hereby amended to read as
18 follows:

19 "SEC. 14. *Mandatory Evaluation and Review.* — [~~By~~
20 ~~the end of School Year 2014-2015]~~ **FIVE (5) YEARS**
21 **AFTER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT,** the
22 DepED shall conduct a mandatory review and submit a
23 midterm report to Congress as to the status of
24 implementation of the [~~K to 12~~] **RATIONALIZED BASIC**
25 **EDUCATION** program in terms of closing the following
26 current shortages: (a) teachers; (b) classrooms; (c)
27 textbooks; (d) seats; (e) toilets; and (f) other shortages that
28 should be addressed.

29 "x x x."

30 Sec. 10. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision or part hereof is held invalid
31 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise
32 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

1 Sec. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
2 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation
3 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,
4 modified, or amended accordingly.

5 Sec. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
6 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
7 circulation.

Approved,