



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 10329

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE IN TECHNOLOGY AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “Public Schools of the Future in
2 Technology (PSOFT) Act”
3

4 ARTICLE I
5 POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES
6

7 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Cognizant of the necessity of adopting innovative
8 technologies to attain development in more positive and transformative ways, the State shall:
9

- 10 (a) Uphold the constitutional mandate to accord the highest priority to quality education by
11 providing appropriate mechanisms and resources to ensure the enjoyment of quality
12 education and services by all Filipino students, regardless of social and economic status;
13 (b) Harness technological innovations, approaches, and instruments in the teaching and learning
14 processes that would enhance the performance of students and teachers;
15 (c) Provide all learners with the opportunity to enhance individual capabilities and knowledge
16 through information and communications technology (ICT);

- 1 (d) Create a system that shall promote and regulate the use of digital technology in public
2 education;
- 3 (e) Enhance the learning experience of students by providing them access to digitized
4 copies of necessary reference materials and digital and online content through the use
5 of ICT and other related technologies for the advancement of education in the country;
- 6 (f) Provide an accessible complementary mode of learning to allow students to
7 continue their education during national health emergencies;
- 8 (g) Encourage the wider participation of private groups, local government units (LGUs), and
9 community-based organizations in content generation and the utilization of the broader
10 spheres of science and technology; and
- 11 (h) Promote public and private partnership in improving access to quality education and
12 lifelong learning.

13
14 SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – This Act shall pursue the following objectives:

- 15
16 (a) Establish an Interagency Taskforce to craft and implement the road map for the PSOFT;
- 17 (b) Institutionalize a program for the integration of digital technology and innovation in
18 public basic education through the PSOFT Road Map;
- 19 (c) Identify key components of the PSOFT Road Map; and
- 20 (d) Provide a public-private partnership (PPP) mechanism to facilitate the attainment of the
21 objectives of the PSOFT Road Map.

22
23 ARTICLE II
24 DEFINITION OF TERMS

25
26 SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- 27
28 (a) Fourth Industrial Revolution – refers to the ongoing automation of traditional
29 manufacturing and industrial practices using modern smart technology by integrating
30 advances in large-scale machine-to-machine communication, artificial intelligence,
31 genetic engineering, the Internet of Things, and other technologies for increased
32 automation, improved communication and self-monitoring, and production of smart
33 machines that can analyze and diagnose issues without the need for human intervention;
- 34 (b) High Touch, High Tech Framework – refers to a policy framework supported by the
35 United Nations Education Commission that espouses the need for educators to find a
36 balance between the more modern electronically-delivered and digitally-supported
37 method of teaching and the traditional face-to-face mode, the latter being teaching
38 methods that are founded on a teacher’s capability to identify, develop, and improve an
39 individual student’s academic weakness;
- 40 (c) Internet safety policy – refers to an age-appropriate, research-based policy that regulates
41 the safe, ethical, and responsible use of the Internet in public education, promotes an
42 informed and critical understanding of the Internet, and the education of children and
43 communities about how to prevent or respond to problems or dangers related to the
44 Internet and new media; and
- 45 (d) New media – refers to emerging digital, computerized, or network information and
46 communication technologies that often have interactive capacities, which includes e-mail,
47 instant messaging, text messaging, web sites, blogs, interactive gaming, social media,
48 cellphones, and mobile devices.

1 ARTICLE III
2 PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE IN TECHNOLOGY
3

4 SEC. 5. *Public Schools of the Future in Technology (PSOFT)*. – There is hereby instituted
5 a PSOFT in all public elementary and secondary schools.
6

7 The PSOFT shall adopt the following principles upon administering basic education in
8 the public school system:
9

- 10 (a) Broaden and maximize the use of ICT to aid learning;
11 (b) Establish a system of upgrading and replacing outdated technology;
12 (c) Provide technical support to maintain ICT and other technology;
13 (d) Train and support teachers and students on ICT and other technology;
14 (e) Develop educators to use ICT effectively in the classroom; and
15 (f) Ensure that the balance between modern and traditional methods of teaching are equally
16 utilized to obtain optimum learning outcomes.
17

18 SEC. 6. *Creation of the PSOFT Inter-Agency Task Force (PSOFT-IATF)*. – There is
19 hereby created the PSOFT-IATF.
20

21 The PSOFT-IATF shall, in consultation with concerned non-government entities,
22 including private companies, non-profit organizations, and private educational institutions,
23 develop the PSOFT Road Map, a consolidation of development plans, programs, and projects to
24 be implemented by various departments and agencies of the national government for the purpose
25 of advancing digital technology and innovation in public basic education.
26

27 The PSOFT-IATF shall be composed of the Secretary of the Department of Education
28 (DepEd) as Chairperson and the following as members: (1) Secretary of the Department of
29 Information and Communication Technology (DICT); (2) Secretary of the Department of Science
30 and Technology (DOST); (3) Secretary of the National Economic and Development Authority
31 (NEDA); (4) Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM); and (5) Director
32 General of the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA).
33

34 The PSOFT-IATF shall finalize the PSOFT Road Map within twelve (12) months from
35 the effectivity of this Act, in accordance with national development goals. The PSOFT Road
36 Map shall be incorporated in the Philippine Development Plan.
37

38 Subject to the approval of the DBM, the DepEd, DICT, and PhilSA may create positions
39 as they deem necessary for the effective implementation of this Act, in accordance with civil
40 service laws, rules and regulations.
41

42 The Department of Social Welfare and Development shall formulate a program extending
43 assistance to marginalized and disadvantaged students to ensure that they may fully participate
44 in the PSOFT Road Map.
45

46 SEC. 7. *PSOFT Road Map*. – The PSOFT Road Map shall serve as the basis for programs
47 and projects aimed at improving the quality of education through the use of digital technology.
48

49 The PSOFT Road Map shall be subject to review and amendment, if necessary, every
50 three (3) years.

1 The PSOFT Road Map shall include a plan for the procurement of PCs, laptops or tablets
2 for the educational needs of all elementary and secondary public schools. All learners will be
3 provided with the necessary learning devices as stipulated in the PSOFT Road Map. Should
4 budgetary constraints prevent the attainment of such target, the national government shall
5 endeavor to meet a ratio of one (1) device for every two (2) learners from Grades 4-6 to ensure
6 that learners can make use of productivity tools in the conduct of regular classes. The national
7 government shall also maintain one (1) device for every fifteen (15) learners from Grades 7-12
8 to ensure that learners can avail of weekly classes on ICT topics that require higher computing
9 power.

10
11 The PSOFT Road Map shall provide for the establishment of functional digital classrooms
12 in all public schools. Digital classrooms shall be equipped with digital boards, computers,
13 wireless router, multimedia projector, printer, and other necessary tools and devices.

14
15 The PSOFT Road Map shall likewise provide for stable and reliable internet and hybrid
16 intranet connectivity. Educators in public schools shall make use of ICT and hybrid intranet
17 connectivity as presentation tools to complement traditional teaching methods. The DepEd, with
18 the technical assistance of DICT, shall develop an administrative system in all public schools
19 utilizing hybrid intranet connectivity in order to enhance organizational management and
20 administration, and streamline front office procedures.

21
22 SEC. 11. *PSOFT Pilot Schools.* – The national government shall establish PSOFT pilot
23 schools in the academic year following the effectivity of this Act. The pilot schools shall be
24 located in Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao and shall fully comply with the
25 requirements of Article IV in this Act, as follows:

- 26
27 (a) The pilot school shall have full, unrestricted access to the internet and for this purpose
28 shall be equipped with wireless technology or such other modes of connectivity that may
29 be developed: *Provided,* That school administrators shall closely supervise the access of
30 learners to content in order to protect them from inappropriate, violent, or immoral
31 material;
- 32 (b) Teachers shall be adequately trained in all technologies that the pilot schools shall adopt
33 for the use of learners;
- 34 (c) All pilot schools shall employ trained information technology specialists to assist faculty
35 and learners; and
- 36 (d) All pilot schools shall provide each teacher and learner with the appropriate ICT devices,
37 tools, and equipment to ensure optimum satisfaction in both the teaching and learning
38 experiences.

39
40 The DepEd shall, in coordination with NEDA, conduct an impact study of the pilot
41 schools to determine its potential in improving the quality of education. Additional pilot schools
42 may be established in the following years, subject to the availability of funds and through
43 cooperative arrangements with LGUs and the public sector.

44
45 ARTICLE V
46 ENHANCED DIGITAL EDUCATION

47
48 SEC. 12. *National Human Resource Development.* – Students in public elementary and
49 secondary schools must be prepared for the disruptive technologies that come with the Fourth

1 Industrial Revolution and have a significant impact on skills requirements and on creating a range
2 of opportunities for them in the future.

3
4 To better equip students to overcome the challenges enabled by ever-increasing
5 technological change and to improve student engagement and achievement, they shall be
6 provided with introductory courses on foundational technology that will enhance their future
7 competencies. The DepEd shall determine the content and mode of delivery of such foundational
8 technology courses and shall introduce them in the curriculum in the school year following the
9 effectivity of this Act.

10
11 To allow students to acquire the appropriate aptitudes and competencies on these courses,
12 the PSOFT Road Map shall provide for the establishment of innovation hubs in every school to
13 enable students to hone their skills and techniques using a wide variety of physical and digital
14 tools and equipment. The innovation hubs shall allow teachers and learners to carry out
15 technology-based projects that address local problems in the community.

16
17 In addition to the standard ICT curriculum taught for basic education in the public schools,
18 the DepEd shall endeavor to include the following subject matters in its curriculum:

- 19
20 (a) Respecting and protecting personal information on the Internet;
21 (b) Understanding computer security systems;
22 (c) Online gender sensitivity;
23 (d) Proper use of social media and social networking;
24 (e) Responsible and ethical use of the Internet, photographic equipment, smart phones, and
25 other equipment of similar nature; and
26 (f) Insights of Republic Act No. 10175, or the “*Cybercrime Prevention Act*” and other related
27 legislation.

28
29 The DepEd shall, in coordination with the DICT, enjoin the use of the latter’s ICT Literacy
30 Competency and Development Bureau and its relevant specialized ICT subjects to be utilized as
31 elective courses in Grades 11-12.

32
33 SEC. 13. *Training and Development of DepEd Personnel.* – The PSOFT Road Map shall
34 determine the training and development needs of school administrators, teachers, and personnel
35 with respect to ICT.

36
37 To ensure that teachers are technologically knowledgeable and well-equipped with the
38 right aptitudes and competencies, the DepEd shall establish an Education Technology Division
39 that shall implement teaching programs and utilize technology-based instruction aids for the
40 effective and efficient performance of teachers under the PSOFT Road Map. The DICT shall
41 extend its support in the implementation of training for teachers on ICT, through its ICT Literacy
42 Competency and Development Bureau.

43
44 The National Educators Academy of the Philippines shall carry out training programs for
45 educators in public schools and integrate ICT in classroom learning and instruction to highlight
46 the professional and educational benefits that may be derived from personally investing in ICT.

47
48 ARTICLE VI
49 DEVELOPMENT OF ONLINE LEARNING PORTALS

- 1 (e) Development and implementation of a public education campaign to promote awareness
2 of online risks to learners and children; and
- 3 (f) Education of parents to augment school initiatives on safe Internet use.

4
5 SEC. 17. *Strengthening the Enhanced Basic Education Information System.* – The EBEIS
6 shall be the central school database of the DepEd which shall contain pertinent personal data and
7 school records of students. It shall be continually improved to ensure the efficient management
8 of school records.

9
10 School administrators and personnel shall be trained on the operation and access of the
11 EBEIS and be given access to student records and other related data in the EBEIS such as a
12 student’s school attendance record, records pertaining to the character of a student, the level of
13 the student’s digital literacy and proficiency, grade level, examination scores, school
14 performance, immunization and health records, among others, for purposes of recording student
15 biographical data, handling admissions and discharges, and transferring to other schools.

16
17 Any person who is caught illegally altering, falsifying, or misusing student information
18 in the EBEIS shall be sanctioned in accordance with R.A. 10173, otherwise known as the “Data
19 Privacy Act of 2012”.

20
21 SEC. 18. *Digital Alternative Learning System.* – The DepEd shall institute a digital format
22 of the ALS in the PSOFT Road Map. To attain this objective, the DepEd shall provide
23 professional training to teachers and non-teaching personnel involved in this program and
24 formulate the necessary guidelines for its implementation.

25
26 ARTICLE VIII
27 PARTNERSHIP MECHANISM AND ROLES OF PARTNERS
28

29 SEC. 19. *Partnership Mechanism and Roles of Partners.* – In the furtherance of the PSOFT
30 Road Map, the DepEd may coordinate and enter into an agreement or contract with other
31 government agencies, LGUs, private and non-profit agencies, institutions or organizations duly
32 accredited or recognized by the government, civil society, business and industrial sector, and
33 other concerned sectors.

34
35 The PSOFT Road Map shall define and delineate the areas of responsibility of government
36 agencies in conformity with their respective charters and mandates. For purposes of this Act,
37 these agencies shall have the following roles:

- 38 (a) The DepEd shall be the lead government agency responsible for the proper and effective
39 implementation of the various provisions of this Act and ensure coordination and
40 collaboration among agencies of the government.
 - 41 (b) The DICT shall provide advice on matters relating to ICT and closely coordinate and
42 collaborate in the implementation of this Act. It shall undertake the installation,
43 maintenance, and operation of hybrid intranet connectivity in all public basic education
44 schools, provide an efficient and reliable broadband connection, assist in the
45 implementation of training and development for teachers concerning ICT and ICT-
46 assisted instructions, and coordinate and collaborate in the provision of digital
47 connectivity in public schools.
- 48

- 1 (c) The PhilSA shall advise and collaborate with DepEd on matters concerning the use of
2 space technology and relevant space-enabled services to implement the provisions of this
3 Act.
4 (d) The DOST, CHED, TESDA, DILG, NLP, NBDB, PSA, the LGUs, and other concerned
5 government agencies mentioned in this Act shall provide support and assistance for the
6 attainment of the purposes of the PSOFT.
7

8 SEC. 20. *Public-Private Partnership (PPP) for PSOFT.* – The DepEd may pursue PPPs
9 from any of the modalities under R.A. 6957, as amended by R.A. 7718, entitled, “An Act
10 Authorizing the Financing, Construction, and Operation and Maintenance of Infrastructure
11 Projects by the Private Sector, and For the Other Purposes”.

12
13 To this end, the DepEd shall, in consultation with the PPP Center of the Philippines
14 created under Executive Order No. 8, series of 2010, entitled, “Reorganizing and Renaming the
15 Build-Operate and Transfer Center to the Public-Private Partnership Center of the Philippines
16 and Transferring its Attachment from the Department of Trade and Industry to the National
17 Economic and Development Authority and For Other Purposes”, establish a PPP Unit to
18 coordinate all matters relating to PPP, in accordance with the PSOFT Road Map. It shall likewise
19 coordinate with the Project Development and Monitoring Facility of the PPP Center in the
20 conduct of feasibility studies and the preparation of tender documents for the PPP projects of the
21 DepEd.

22
23 ARTICLE IX
24 AUTHORITY TO RECEIVE DONATIONS
25

26 SEC. 21. *Authority to Receive Donations.* – The DepEd is authorized to accept grants,
27 contributions, donations, endowments, or bequests in cash or kind from local and foreign sources
28 in support of the development and implementation of this Act, subject to the regular auditing
29 guidelines and procedures: *Provided,* That in case of donations from foreign sources, acceptance
30 thereof shall be subject to existing government rules and regulations. The proceeds of such grants,
31 contributions, donations, endowments, or bequests shall be used to finance the following:
32

- 33 (a) Establishment of pilot schools as provided in Section 11 of this Act;
34 (b) Research, development, and utilization of emerging digital technologies;
35 (c) Provisions of computer laptop units and improvement of ICT infrastructure, including
36 hardware and Internet connectivity;
37 (d) Training and capacity building; and
38 (e) Conduct of other activities necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.
39

40 ARTICLE X
41 THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE AND
42 REPORTORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

