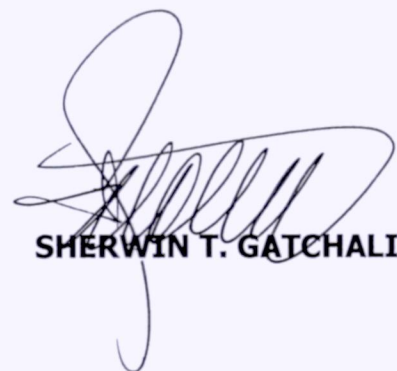


exhibiting Low Proficiency with respect to the subject matter. The increased budget for education has yet to pay dividends when it comes to science education.

A universal tenet of quality education, consistently reported by reputable education experts and enshrined in the 1987 Constitution, is ensuring equitable access to education. This entails ensuring access to all forms of education, including specialized math and science curricula. However, this type of valuable, oft-sought-after education is only available to the lucky few that are admitted to the Philippine Science High School system, one of the Regional Science High Schools, or those who are fortunate enough to live near one of the other science high schools scattered across the country.

Therefore, this legislation seeks to close the educational access gap between different sectors of Philippine society. The establishment of a new structure of accessible math and science high schools across the Philippines will allow capable and willing students who have been hindered by geographic and economic barriers to pursue a science-based education in numbers that are as of yet unheard of in the Philippines. In time, this investment in human capital will pay dividends as these ambitious young students become the next science-related professionals of our country. Considering the enormous dividends that the cultivation of these brilliant minds will pay to society in the future, this is a worthy investment for us to make.

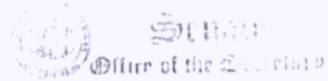
Support for the passage and approval of this legislation is earnestly sought.



SHERWIN T. GATCHALIAN

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

S. No. 369

Introduced by SEN. SHERWIN T. GATCHALIAN

**AN ACT
PROMOTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC MATH AND SCIENCE
HIGH SCHOOLS IN PREVIOUSLY UNDERSERVED AREAS, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 SEC. 1. **Short Title** - This Act shall be known as the "*Equitable*
2 *Access to Math and Science Education Act*".

3 SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared a policy of the
4 State to provide equitable access to quality education in the pure and applied
5 sciences, mathematics, and technology for all Filipinos as a means to nurture
6 future generations of scientists, mathematicians, engineers, and other
7 professionals who will serve the nation as catalysts for scientific, technological,
8 and industrial progress.

9 Pursuant to this declaration, the State shall work hand-in-hand with
10 local government units (LGUs) to eliminate economic and geographical barriers
11 that restrict the access of otherwise willing and qualified students to said
12 education.

1 SEC. 3. **Coverage.** - All provinces of the Republic of the Philippines
2 which do not have at least one (1) public math and science high school
3 currently operating within their respective geographical boundaries at the time
4 this Act takes effect shall be required to fulfill the establishment requirements
5 prescribed by Section 4 of this Act.

6 For the purposes of this Act, the term *public math and science high*
7 *school* shall refer to a school principally financed through national or local
8 government funds that implements an advanced curriculum focused on science,
9 mathematics, and technology subjects, for grade 7-12 students.

10 SEC. 4. **Establishment of Schools.** - All provinces covered by the
11 preceding Section of this Act are hereby mandated to work with the Department
12 of Education (DepEd) to establish at least one (1) public math and science high
13 school within their respective provincial capitals.

14 Schools established in compliance with this Act may be established
15 through the construction of new school facilities, the conversion and/or
16 reorganization of an existing school, or the renovation and re-opening of
17 currently non-operational school facilities or other idle government-owned
18 property: *Provided, That* these schools must be fully operational by Academic
19 Year 2020-2021: *Provided, further, That* any utilization of idle government-
20 owned assets shall follow pertinent procedures as prescribed by law: *Provided,*
21 *finally,* That schools which have been designated by the DepEd as fully compliant
22 under this Act may start operations earlier than the prescribed deadline.

23 SEC. 5. **School Operations.** - Schools established in compliance with
24 this Act shall be operated by the DepEd, with the proper participation of the
25 applicable LGUs and other community shareholders as prescribed by law. Said
26 schools shall be funded in full under the budget of the DepEd and shall be
27 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

28 SEC. 6. **Admissions.** - Schools established in compliance with this Act

1 shall accept applicants based on the results of a competitive entrance
2 examination. A student may be eligible to apply for admission to said school only
3 if he or she has established continuous residence within the establishing
4 province for at least one (1) year by the date of examination.

5 SEC. 7. **Curriculum**- - Schools established in compliance with this Act
6 shall implement a six-year integrated junior-senior high school curriculum that
7 focuses on advanced science, mathematics, and technology subjects under the
8 guidance of the DepEd and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).
9 The revised curriculum of the Philippine Science High School system for Grades
10 7-12 shall be used as a basis for the formulation of said curriculum.

11 SEC. 8. **Higher Education Bond**. – A graduate of a school established in
12 compliance with this Act shall be required to enroll in a four or five-year
13 Bachelor’s Degree in Science program at an accredited college or university.
14 Said graduate must enroll in a course-of-study in one of the following fields:
15 pure and applied sciences, mathematics, engineering, technology, or any other
16 field deemed appropriate by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). A
17 graduate who shifts or transfers to a course in any unrelated field prior to
18 completion of the degree program shall pay a fine equivalent to the total full
19 cost incurred by the government in subsidizing the secondary education
20 program of said graduate, as calculated by the DepEd.
21 Any fine collected under the terms of this provision shall be allocated to any
22 government program that promotes the advancement of science, mathematics,
23 and technological education in the Philippines.

24 SEC 9. **Appropriations**. - The amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos
25 (P500,000,000.00) is hereby initially appropriated to implement the provisions
26 of this Act. Thereafter, such amount necessary to effectively carry out the
27 provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
28 Act.

1 SEC. 10. **Implementing Agencies.** - The DepEd, in
2 coordination with the DOST and the CHED, shall be responsible for implementing
3 the provisions of this Act. Within (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the
4 implementing agencies shall promulgate the implementing rules and
5 regulations as may be necessary to ensure the efficient and effective
6 implementation of this Act.

7 SEC. 11. **Separability Clause.** - Should any part of this Act be declared
8 unconstitutional, the rest of the provisions of this Act shall continue to be in
9 effect and subsisting.

10 SEC. 12. **Repealing Clause.** - The provisions of other laws, decrees,
11 executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby
12 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

13 SEC. 13. **Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
14 publication in the *Official Gazette* and/or in at least two (2) national
15 newspapers in general circulation.

Approved,