

Republika ng Pilipinas
(Republic of the Philippines)
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS)
Manila

June 1, 1988

DECS O R D E R
No. 44, s. 1988

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE FREE PUBLIC SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1988

To: Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Superintendents
Presidents, State Colleges and Universities
Heads of Private Schools, Colleges and Universities

1. In accordance with the policy of the State to provide for free public secondary education to all qualified citizens and the provisions of Sec. 9 of Republic Act No. 6655, the following rules and regulations on the implementation of Free Public Secondary Education starting school year 1988-89 are hereby promulgated:

a. Nationalization of Public Secondary Schools means that the establishment, renaming, conversion, integration, separation, administration, supervision and control of all public secondary schools and public secondary school teachers, and other school personnel, including the payment of their salaries, allowances and other fringe benefits as well as those already provided by local governments are hereby vested in the Department of Education, Culture and Sports. Any benefit which the local or National Government may have granted to students, teachers and other school personnel prior to the enactment of the Act shall not be withdrawn or diminished.

b. In order to upgrade the quality of education at the secondary level, the curriculum shall provide for the development of knowledge, value and skills, including skills that will give students gainful employment. As such the curriculum shall have the following features:

- (1) Cognitive, affective, manipulative based, i.e. humanities, science and technology shall form the cognitive dimension; moral, spiritual, social, political, aesthetic and work values, the affective dimension; and work skills, the psychomotor dimension;
- (2) Consists of core subjects;
- (3) Includes the study of the Constitution;
- (4) Adheres to the bilingual policy.

c. The right of any student to avail of free public high school education shall terminate if he fails in majority of the academic subjects in which he is enrolled for two (2) consecutive school years during the course of his study unless such failure is due to some valid cause.

(1) Failure in one (1) 180 minutes and one (1) 300 minutes a week yearly subjects or three (3) 180 minutes or two (2) 300 minutes a week yearly subjects means failure in that curricular year.

(2) "Due to some valid cause" means that the circumstances for such failure may be attributed to reasons beyond the students' control, such as illness, family instability, or environmental disturbances.

d. Non-payment of fees related to membership in the school community such as identification cards, student organizations and publications shall not in any case be a bar to the enrolment or graduation of any student.

e. All financial requirements for the full implementation of the free public secondary education system shall be met through realignment or transfer of funds from existing appropriation or savings of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports as authorized by the President of the Philippines.

f. A report on the actual enrolment, number of classes in all year levels, actual number of teachers and classrooms used, the additional teachers and classrooms needed and, such other information as may be useful for evaluation of the implementation of the program, shall be submitted to the Assistant Secretary for Planning within thirty (30) days from the opening of the school year.

2. Inclosed with this Order is Republic Act 6655 entitled "Free Public Secondary Education Act of 1988." Furthermore, attention is invited to DECS Order No. 40, s. 1988 entitled "Guidelines in the Implementation of the Free Secondary Education Program for School Year 1988-1989."

3. It is desired that this Order be immediately disseminated for the information and guidance of all concerned.

(SGD.) LOURDES R. OUSOMBING
Secretary

Incl.:

As stated

Reference: DECS Order (No. 40, s. 1988)

Allotment: 1-2-3-4--(M.O. 1-87)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

Course of Study, SECONDARY

RULES & REGULATIONS

(Inclosure to DECS Order No. 44, s. 1986)

H. No. 2528

Republic of the Philippines
CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
Metro Manila

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Began and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-seventh day of July, nineteen hundred and eighty-seven.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6655]

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND PROVIDING FOR A FREE PUBLIC
SECONDARY EDUCATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Free Public Secondary Education Act of 1986."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to provide for a free public secondary education to all qualified citizens and to promote quality education at all levels.

SEC. 3. Definitions. - For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a) Free Public Secondary Education. - Means that the students enrolled in secondary course offerings in national high schools, general comprehensive high schools, state colleges and universities, specialized schools, grade, technical, vocational, fishery and agricultural schools, and in schools established, administered, maintained and funded by local government units, including city, provincial, municipal and barangay high schools, and those public high schools which may be established by law, shall be free from payment of tuition and other school fees;
- b) Tuition Fee. - Refers to the fee representing direct cost of instruction, training and other related activities and for the students' use of the instruction and training facilities;
- c) Other School Fees. - Refer to those fees which cover the other necessary costs supportive of instruction, including but not limited to medical and dental, athletic, library, laboratory and Citizens Army Training (CAT) fees.

However, fees related to membership in the school community such as identification cards, student organizations and publications may be collected, provided that nonpayment of these fees shall not in any case be a bar to the enrollment or graduation of any student.

SEC. 4. Implementation of Free Public Secondary Education. - The system of free public secondary education as provided in this Act shall commence in School Year 1988-89, and that the students enrolled in secondary course offerings in national and general comprehensive high schools, state colleges and universities, specialized schools, trade, technical, vocational, fishery and agricultural schools, and in schools established, administered, maintained and funded by local government units, including city, provincial, municipal and barangay high schools and those public high schools which may be established by law, shall be free from payment of tuition and other school fees, except fees related to membership in the school community such as identification cards, student organizations and publications which may be collected. Provided, That nothing in this Act shall cause or authorize the reduction or removal of any benefit which the national or local government may have granted to the students, teachers and other school personnel of these public high schools prior to the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. Formulation of a Secondary Education Curriculum. - The Department of Education, Culture and Sports shall formulate a secondary education curriculum in order to upgrade its quality, efficiency and access. In addition to providing the high school students with general skills, knowledge and values, such a curriculum must include vocational and technical courses that will give the students gainful employment.

SEC. 6. Limitation. - The right of any student to avail of free public high school shall terminate if he fails for two (2) consecutive school years in the majority of the academic subjects in which he is enrolled during the course of his study unless such failure is due to some valid cause.

SEC. 7. Nationalization of Public Secondary Schools. - To effectively implement the system, the establishment, renaming, conversion, integration, separation, administration, supervision and control of all public secondary schools and public secondary school teachers and other school personnel, including the payment of their salaries, allowances and other fringe benefits as well as those already provided by local governments are hereby vested in the Department of Education, Culture and Sports.

SEC. 8. Priority in Admission. - Graduates of public elementary schools in a municipality shall be given priority in admission when the present facilities in the same municipality cannot accommodate all of those applying for enrollment in the public high schools.

SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Secretary of Education, Culture and Sports shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 10. Fundings. - The President is hereby authorized to realign or transfer any item of appropriation within the Department of Education, Culture and Sports and/or utilize any savings therein to carry out the purposes of this Act. Whatever additional amount as may be needed for its implementation shall be included in the General Appropriations Acts for the ensuing fiscal years.

SEC. 11. Repealing Clause. - All laws or parts thereof, inconsistent with any provision of this Act shall be deemed repealed or modified as the case may be.

SEC. 12. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,

(SGD.) JOVITO R. SALONGA
President of the Senate

(SGD.) RAMON V. MITRA
Speaker of the House
of Representatives

This Act which originated in the House of Representatives was finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on May 17, 1988 and May 16, 1988, respectively.

(SGD.) EDWIN P. ACUBA
Acting Secretary of the
Senate

(SGD.) CAMILO L. SABILIS
FOR: QUIRINO D. ABAD SANTOS, JR.
Secretary of the House
of Representatives

Approved: May 26, 1988

(SGD.) CORAZON C. AQUINO
President of the Philippines

A true copy