

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10665, August 04, 2015]

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OPEN HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Open High School System Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to broaden access to relevant quality education through the employment of an alternative secondary education program that will enable the youth to overcome personal, geographical, socioeconomic and physical constraints, to encourage them to complete secondary education. This is in line with the constitutional policy that mandates the State to “encourage non-formal, informal, and indigenous learning systems, as well as self-learning, independent, and out-of-school study programs particularly those that respond to community needs”, as stated in Article XIV, Section 2, paragraph 4 of the 1987 Constitution.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – The terms used in this Act are hereby defined as follows:

(a) *Community Adviser or Tagapayong Pansamahan* refers to the adviser from within the community who helps the open learners harmonize their studies with community service and leisure;

(b) *Learning Center* refers to a room in the mother high school or other designated area where the open learners can conduct researches or gather additional information on topics under study. It can also serve as a multipurpose area which may contain a classroom setup, a library or a venue where the Source Person can conduct hands-on exercises/activities;

(c) *Mother High School or Inang Paaralan* refers to a regular secondary school which maintains full administrative management and instructional supervision and control Over one or more learning centers. It functions, among others, as:

(1) Headquarters of the open learners and Open High School Teachers;

(2) Center for enrolment, evaluation, direct or face-to-face instruction and promotion of open learning;

(3) Receiver of donations, instructional materials and reports relative to open learning; and

(4) Coordinator of the different learning centers in the community.

(d) *Open High School Teacher* refers to a regular secondary school teacher of the mother high school who is in charge of direct instruction, evaluation of the learners' progress and keeping of the records of individual learners;

(e) *Open Learning* refers to the philosophy of learning that is learner-centered and flexible, enabling learners to learn at the time, place and pace which satisfies their circumstances and requirements;

(f) *Source Person or Gurong Kadluan* refers to a resource person with specialized skills in practical or industrial subjects such as farming, handicraft, auto-mechanics, tailoring and other skills; and

(g) *Teacher Adviser or Gurong Tagapatnubay* refers to a regular secondary school teacher of the mother high school who serves as guidance counselor to the open learners, coordinates with the teachers in evaluating the learners' progress, and prepares and submits reports to the authorities concerned.

SEC. 4. *Establishment of the Open High School System (OHSS)*. — The OHSS is hereby established as part of the Department of Education's (DepED) alternative secondary education program to provide access to secondary education through the open learning modality.

SEC. 5. *Coverage*. – This Act shall apply to public secondary educational institutions authorized to practice open learning through self-instructional materials, multi-channel learning and school-family-community partnership as well as other such institutions that shall be authorized as qualified implementers of the OHSS.

SEC. 6. *Learners of the OHSS*. – The OHSS shall be open to all youth and adults who have finished elementary education, as well as high school qualifiers of the Philippine Educational Placement Test (PEPT) and the Alternative Learning System (ALS) Accreditation and Equivalency (A&E) Test.

SEC. 7. *Administration and Function*. – The DepED shall administer the OHSS. An OHSS Unit shall be created to assist in performing the following functions:

(a) Formulate the basic policies of the OHSS;

(b) Formulate, adopt and supplement programs that ensure effectivity and productivity of the OHSS;

(c) Monitor and evaluate existing open learning programs for integration with the OHSS;

(d) Develop and validate prototype instructional materials for open learning;

(e) Consult and collaborate with other DepED divisions, local government units (LGUs), civil society organizations and other private agencies for the effective operation of the OHSS;

(f) Promulgate the necessary guidelines, rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the OHSS;

(g) Recommend to the DepED the annual budget of the OHSS for inclusion in the annual General Appropriations Act; and