



Department of Social Welfare and Development

DSWD-GF-010 | REV 01 | 17 AUG 2022

**HONORABLE WIN GATCHALIAN**

Chairperson  
Committee on Basic Education  
Senate of the Philippines  
Pasay City

Attn: **HAZEL ROSS P. VILLARBA**  
**Committee Secretary**

Dear **SENATOR GATCHALIAN**,

This refers to your request for comments on the following measures pertaining to Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD), namely:

Senate Bill No.	Title	Author
Senate Bill No. 1754	AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 6, 9, AND 11 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10410, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EARLY YEARS ACT OF 2013", AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Senator Sonny Angara
Senate Bill No. 2029	AN ACT ENSURING THE ALIGNMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Senator Win Gatchalian

Consistent with the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) mandate to develop, implement, and coordinate social welfare programs and services for the poor, disadvantaged, and vulnerable, such as children, and since the Philippines is a state party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the DSWD fully supports measures that will promote the welfare, development, and overall, the best interest of children.

As early as 2004, in recognition of the significant role of Day Care Service in the development of children's well-being, the DSWD has set standards for Day Care Centers (DCCs), other Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Centers, and Service Providers (SP) through Administrative Order No. 29, which was later on superseded by A.O. 15, series of 2011, based on the following principles:



- a. Early childhood is the most formative and crucial stage in a person's growth and development;
- b. The dynamic interplay of heredity and environment plays a significant and unique role in a person's development;
- c. Exploring and discovery are venues for development characterized by activity and perseverance;
- d. Homes and communities are essential continuing contexts within which a person's development occurs and progresses; and
- e. Inclusion and cultural diversity are cornerstones for optimal development.

Upon the passage of Republic Act No. 10410 or the Early Years Act of 2013, the accreditation has been mandated to be transferred to the ECCD Council, of which DSWD is a member. Under the law, the ECCD Council shall develop a national system for recruitment, registration, accreditation, continuing education, and equivalency, and a credential system of ECCD service providers, supervisors, and administrators to improve and professionalize the ECCD sector and upgrade the quality standards of public and private ECCD programs. This is being finalized through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the DSWD and the ECCD Council.

As of July 2023, DSWD accredited 42,911 Child Development Centers (CDC) and 43,760 Child Development Workers (CDW).

As to the objectives of the proposed bills, the DSWD, as the lead agency in social protection, supports legislation that values the developmental stage of children through the enhancement of early childhood education. We agree that prioritizing quality early childhood education will set a strong foundation for learning, which is why it is incorporated into the following DSWD programs:

- a. In Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), children aged 3-5 must enroll in CDCs or preschool and maintain a monthly class attendance rate of at least 85%.
- b. Under the Parent Effectiveness Service (PES) program, parents and parent-substitutes are assisted in developing and strengthening their knowledge and skills to assume a significant educational role in their child's growth and development. The DSWD and the City Social Welfare Development Offices (CSWDOs) in the local government units (LGUs) conduct PES as part of our efforts to support and empower parents as primary caregivers and nurturers of their children. The seminars aim to provide parents with knowledge, skills, and techniques to improve their parenting practices, strengthen family relationships, and promote the overall being of their children.
- c. Through the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan – Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS), around eight thousand (8,000) CDC sub-projects were completed to testify that early childcare is also valued in communities.

Providing children with education access is part of the social security guarantees under the social protection floor aimed at alleviating poverty, vulnerability, and social exclusion. This is also aligned with the Philippine Development Plan towards the attainment of *Ambisyon Natin 2040*, particularly under "*maginhawang buhay*," or a comfortable life where children receive a quality education so that they realize their full potential and become productive members of society.


Moreover, similar to the DSWD's position on the Magna Carta for Child Development Workers (CDWs), the DSWD likewise reiterates its continuous support for the passage of measures that advance the welfare of children and assist in their growth and development during the early childhood years of education and measures that recognize the CDWs' invaluable and critical role for this purpose.

Regarding the other provisions of the subject bills, the DSWD defers to the comments of other agencies relevant to their respective mandates and concerns.

For the Chairperson's consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
REX GATCHALIAN  
Secretary  
Date: AUG 24 2023