

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8496, February 12, 1998 ]**

**AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Science High School (PSHS) System Act of 1997."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The State shall give priority to Research and Development, invention, innovation, and their utilization; and to Science and Technology education, training and services. It shall support indigenous, appropriate, and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities, and their application to the country's productive systems and national life. To achieve these, the State hereby establishes a PSHS System that will assume a leadership role in secondary level science and technology education.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* - In implementing the foregoing policy, the State shall pursue the following objectives:

- a. Integrate the existing PSHS at Diliman, Eastern Visayas, Western Visayas and Mindanao into one system of governance and management;
- b. Ensure uniformity in quality standards and systematize operations of schools under the PSHS System; and
- c. Rationalize the establishment of science high schools as defined in this Act.

**TITLE I**

**DEFINITION OF TERMS, STRUCTURE, MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE**

SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* -

- a. *Philippine Science High Schools (PSHS)* - are secondary schools offering scholarships to deserving students who shall be admitted and trained under a curriculum specially designed to prepare them for careers in science and technology (S & T).
- b. *Term* - refers to the "term of office," with a duration of six (6) years in one term.

SEC. 5. *Scope.* - The Philippine Science High School System shall be composed of the existing PSHS campuses at Diliman, Eastern Visayas, Western Visayas and Mindanao, and future campuses which shall be established under this law.

SEC. 6. *Overall Coordinating Authority.* - The PSHS System shall be under the administrative supervision of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

SEC. 7. *Board of Trustees.* - There shall be a Board of Trustees composed of the secretary of the DOST as ex officio Chairman, the secretary of DECS as ex officio Vice Chairman, and the following members: The President of the U.P., the Executive Director of PSHS, the Director of the Science Education Institute (SEI) and the President from the PSHS National Alumni Association as ex officio members; and one (1) representative each from the private sector representing higher education, education for the gifted, industry, agriculture, and new and emerging technologies. The private sector representatives shall be appointed by the Chairman subject to the confirmation of the Board of Trustees. For the first set of appointments, three (3) of them shall serve for four (4) years, while the other two (2) for two (2) years, thereafter, succeeding appointments shall have a fixed term of four (4) years.

The Board shall exercise the following powers:

- a. Formulate policies and guidelines for the administration and operation of the PSHS System;
- b. Formulate policies on the appointment, promotion, retention, removal, renewal, rewards and incentives for administrators, faculty and staff;
- c. Approve the curricula submitted by the Executive Director;
- d. Approve the criteria for the selection and admission of students;
- e. Approve the grant of scholarship, stipend and such allowances for students;
- f. Approve the graduation of successful candidates from the various PSHS campuses;
- g. Formulate policies and rules of discipline for students, faculty and staff;
- h. Approve the PSHS System budget and appropriate to the ends specified by law such sums as may be provided by law for the support of the System;
- i. Receive grants whether cash, land, buildings and improvements thereof; donations, contributions, bequests, gifts, and to formulate policies for the administration thereof;
- j. Develop policies for the expansion of enrollment in the campuses under the PSHS System;
- k. Set policies and criteria to rationalize the establishment of science high schools under the System, for its evaluation and approval thereof; and
- l. Prepare strategic plans to enhance the capability of the System in developing human resources with focus on youth with special talents in science and mathematics.