

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6655, May 26, 1988 ]**

**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 1988."

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, 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;
- b. *Tuition Fee.* — Refers to the fee representing direct costs 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 1988-1989, 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