

Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**

Quezon City, Metro Manila

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**

Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **8831**



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**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PM VARGAS**

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**AN ACT**  
**REQUIRING THE TEACHING OF DIGITAL LITERACY AS A PART OF THE**  
**CURRICULUM OF GRADE SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOLS, AND**  
**APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The world has long transitioned to a highly digital time, to the point where technological dependency is deeply integrated into the daily lives of people, such as in communication, entertainment, mobility, and business transactions. As a result of the growing demand for technological advancement, the digital landscape has become highly globalized, hyperconnected, and an exceedingly competitive environment. As advancement continues, however, so do the growing threats and insecurity to both cyber and personal space of the consumers of the digital market.

To equip the Filipino people especially, the youth, with appropriate skills and knowledge about the proper usage and etiquette of different ICT tools and services, the Department of Education (DepEd) promoted the integration of digital literacy in Philippine education through the country's implementation of the K-12 curriculum in the academic year 2013-2014. Furthermore, Globe Telecommunications company's Digital Thumbprint Program (DTP) was later adopted by DepEd to bolster the curriculum's existing modules on digital literacy. The said program is divided into four integral parts: (a) digital insight; (b) digital impact; (c) digital ambition; and (d) digital discernment.

The proposed “*Digital Literacy in Schools Act*” seeks to put emphasis on the importance of digital literacy as it becomes increasingly necessary and fundamental for individuals to make informed decisions, analyze appropriate and credible resources available, and harness adaptability to technological advancements to be able to thrive within this present society. Thus, the proposed aims to establish the foundation of the curriculum on digital literacy and its existing working mechanism by allocating sufficient funds and resources, developing efficient frameworks, and garnering enough support.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'PM VARGAS', is positioned above the printed name.

**REP. PM VARGAS**

Fifth District, Quezon City

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*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 “*Digital Literacy in Schools Act.*”

**SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the general well-being of the public in both online and offline environments. To this end, the State shall add a subject on digital literacy into the curriculum of all grade schools and high schools in order to ensure students are digitally responsible and increase online safety.

**SECTION 3. Digital Literacy.** – For the purpose of this Act, digital literacy is the ability to use technology to find information, evaluate sources, create content, and communicate with others effectively. Digital Literacy may include the ability to use computers and mobile devices including the apps and tools therein, access accurate and reliable information online, and effectively communicate online through social media. Furthermore, digital literacy can also help in understanding the rights, responsibilities, and ethical considerations related to using digital technologies, including issues such as online privacy,

cyberbullying, digital footprint, copyright, and digital security, and adhering to appropriate codes of conduct and legal requirements.

**SECTION 4. *Digital Literacy Education in Schools.*** – The Department of Education (DepEd) shall develop a Digital Literacy Curriculum conducive to grade school and high school students which shall include, but not limited to, the following:

1. Basic computer skills;
2. Choosing and evaluating reliable sources or information online;
3. Development of digital communications skills;
4. Analyzing advertisements online;
5. Analyzing the different digital communities;
6. Understanding the importance of privacy and security online;
7. Understanding social media and its pros and cons;
8. Understanding the evaluating online searches;
9. Navigation of mobile apps and tools;
10. Cybersecurity and data privacy awareness;
11. Producing digital content and information; and
12. Cultivating proper ethics in social media

**SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Department of Education (DepEd) shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) to implement the provisions of this Act.

**SECTION 6. *Appropriations.*** – The funds needed for the implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the budget of the Department of Education (DepEd).

**SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

**SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 9. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*