

FREE TUTORIAL SESSIONS

by:

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In terms of education, Filipino students fall behind. Recent research indicates that one in five Filipinos are functionally illiterate. It indicates that pupils are able to read but struggle with comprehension. This is quite concerning, and education must become a top priority for our government.

The Department of Education (DepEd) stated that free tutorial sessions will begin this school year for at least three million children who struggle with functional literacy. President Marcos signed Republic Act 12028 into law in October 2024, and this action is an element of the Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning (ARAL) program. Education Secretary Sonny Angara expressed gratitude to President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. for signing the Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning (ARAL) bill, a free national learning intervention program designed to improve the nation's educational standards. For students who are having difficulty in their classes, particularly in reading, math, and science, the ARAL program would offer a free and efficient national intervention mechanism to help them reach the DepEd-established skills. According to Angara, the program requires a national teacher pool to assist students.

According to the law, teachers, para-teachers, and pre-service teachers may be hired as tutors for the ARAL program; however, they are not permitted to teach their own students. The ARAL program will specifically assist students in Kindergarten to "build foundational skills" in science for Grades 3 to 10, reading and math for Grades 1 to 10, and literacy and numeracy. The

curriculum can be accessed by students at public schools in a variety of ways, such as blended learning, online setup, or in-person tutorials.

Our government's ARAL Program is a commendable attempt to bridge the educational gap. I hope that teachers who also teach in normal classes won't be burdened by this big adjustment, which could help struggling students improve their academic abilities.

References:

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1235899>

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2025/05/25/2445573/tutoring-3-million-students-starts-school-year>