



## 2025 PHILED CONFERENCE

Changing *the* Narrative of Philippine Education  
By Making Reforms Work

# Independent Assessment Agencies: Models of Success, Traps of Failure

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Mathematics Education Development

# Outline

- Models
- Practices
- Lessons learned



Is the Philippines ready for an independent assessment agency?

# Independent Assessment Agency

An independent assessment agency is an organization or entity that provides impartial, third-party evaluations of programs, projects, individuals, or systems to ensure fairness, quality, or compliance (Tanner, 2000).



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**PBEd** PHILIPPINE  
BUSINESS for  
EDUCATION

## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE PHILIPPINE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK ADJACENT TO GLOBAL STANDARDS: INFORMED POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

APRIL 2024

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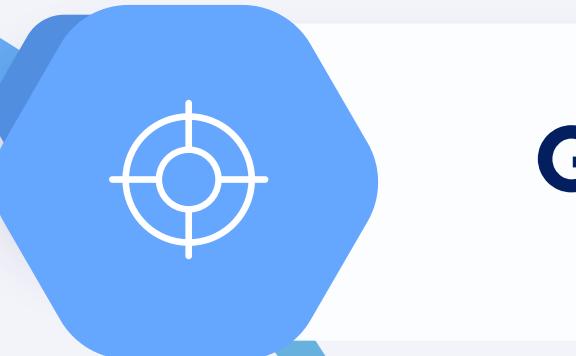
## BEYOND THE TEST SCORES: WHY THE PHILIPPINES NEEDS AN INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT AGENCY

APRIL 2024

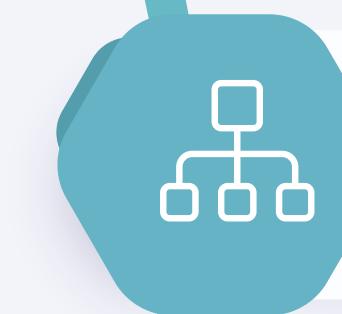
[www.pbed.ph](http://www.pbed.ph)

This publication has been funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The views expressed in this publication are the author's alone and are not necessarily the views of the Australian Government.

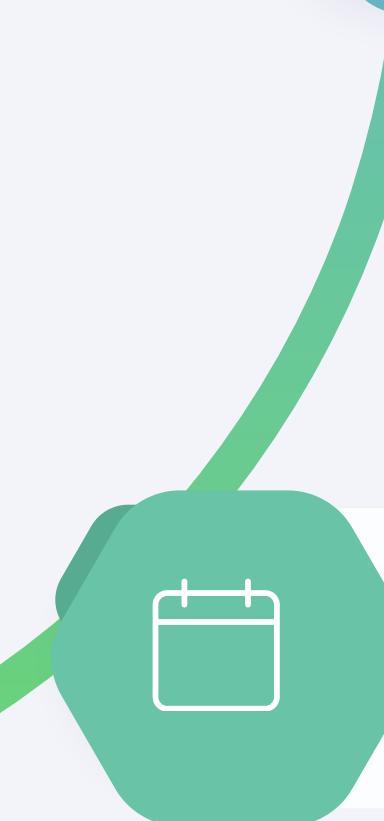
# Landscape of the Philippine Assessment Ecosystem



**Government-led**

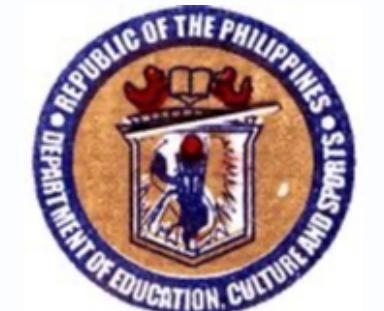


**Private assessment  
membership systems**



**Internationally funded project-  
based assessments adapted by  
government**

# Government-led (Basic Education)



1987

**Creation of  
National  
Education and  
Testing Research  
Center**



2015  
**Bureau of Education  
Assessment**

**DepEd-BEA**

**Administers  
national-level,  
system-wide  
assessments**

(D.O. 55, s. 2016)

**DepEd-BLD**

**Formulates  
policies for  
classroom-level  
assessments,  
which are then  
implemented by  
school division  
offices (SDOs)**

(D.O. 8, s. 2016)

# Private Service Providers (PSPs)

**Center for  
Educational  
Measurement,  
Inc (CEM)**

**Global  
Resources for  
Assessment  
Curriculum and  
Evaluation  
(GRACE)**

# Internationally funded project-based assessments adapted by government

**EGRA**

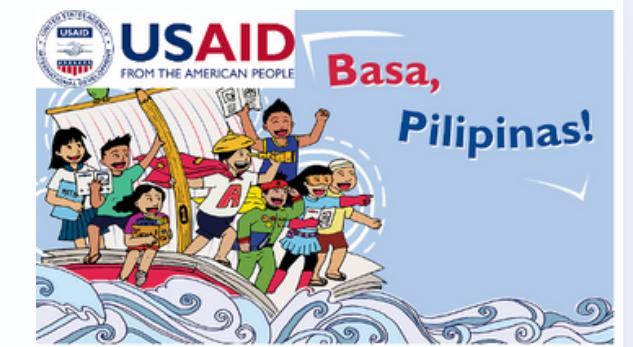
**Early Grade Reading Assessment**

(Research Triangle Institute [RTI], 2006)

**EGMA**

**Early Grade Mathematics Assessment**

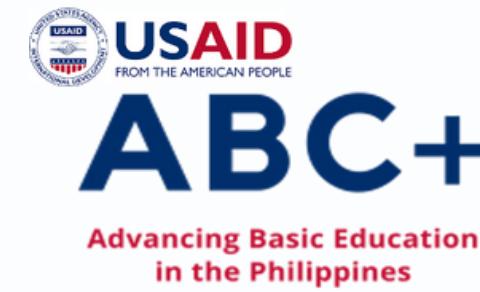
(Research Triangle Institute [RTI], 2006)



**Basa Pilipinas**

(Education Development Center, 2018)

# Internationally funded project-based assessments adapted by government

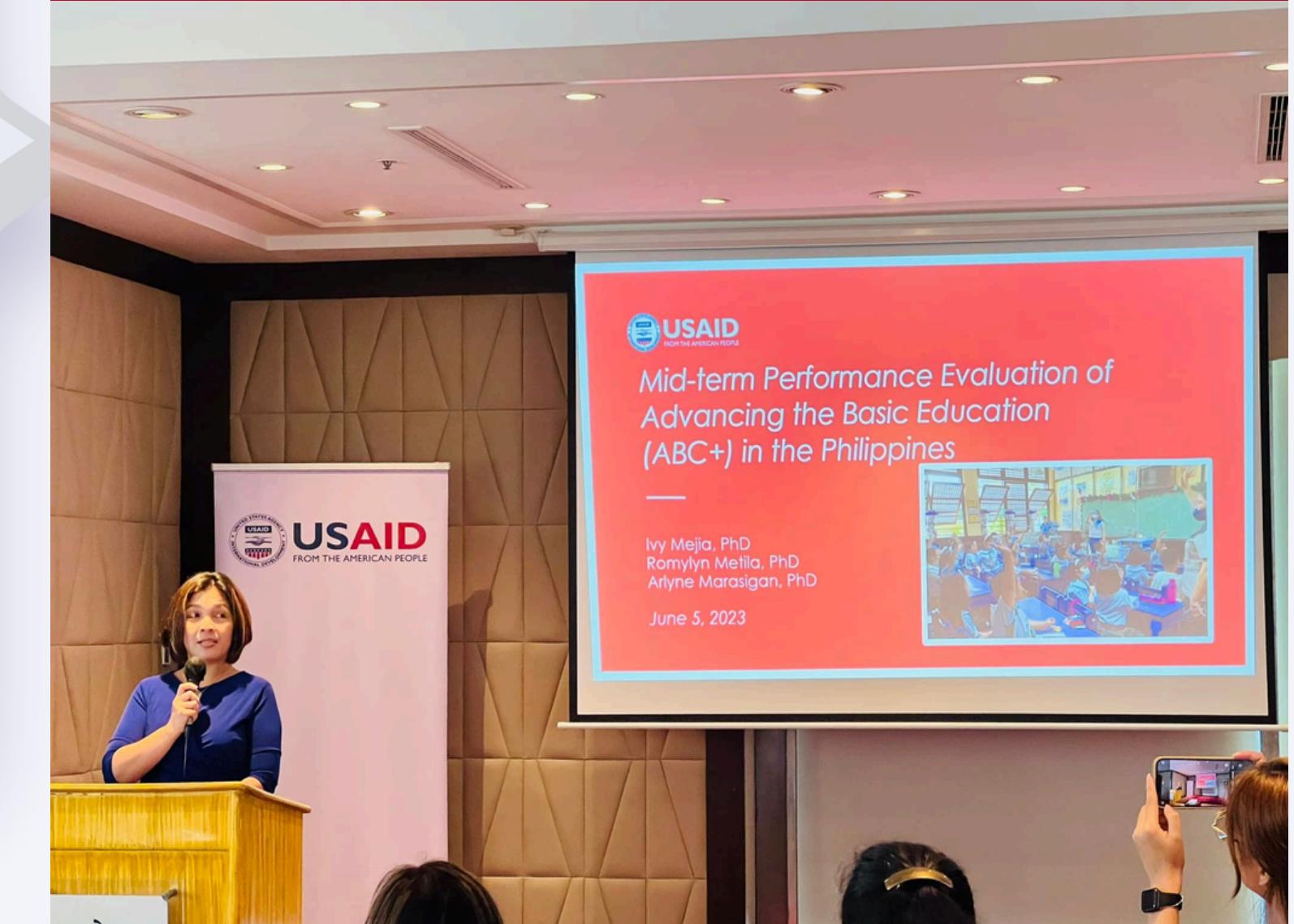


**CRLA**  
Comprehensive  
Rapid Literacy  
Assessment  
(Advancing Basic  
Education in the  
Philippines  
[ABC+] and  
DepEd Region V,  
2022



## Mid-term Performance Evaluation of Advancing the Basic Education (ABC+) in the Philippines

Ivy Mejia, PhD  
Romylyn Metila, PhD  
Arlyne Marasigan, PhD



# Internationally funded project-based assessments adapted by government



Isla Maganda for Bangsamoro Children

Education Pathways to Peace in Mindanao Program (2024)



# Internationally funded project- based assessments adapted by government

The image is a screenshot of the ACTRC (Assessment, Curriculum And Technology Research Centre) website. The header features the ACTRC logo in blue and red, followed by a navigation menu with links to Home, About, News, Projects, Resources, Useful Links, and Contact Us. Below the header is a photograph of a classroom. Overlaid on the image is the text "A Partnership Between The University Of The Philippines And The University Of Melbourne". In the bottom left corner of the image area, there are three logos: "Australian Aid" with a red kangaroo, "THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE" with its crest, and "UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES 1908" with its crest. The text "Supported by the Australian Government" is also visible in the image area.

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# Hybrid, Multi-Provider Assessment Model/System

Landscape of the Philippine Assessment Ecosystem at the Basic Education Level

## USAID

EGRA  
EGMA  
Basa Pilipinas  
ABC+

## AusAid/Australian Aid

ACTRC  
Isla Maganda

*International Partners*



**BEA  
BLD**

## Private Service Providers

## Local Providers



# Government-led (Middle skills)



**Middle skills**  
**(Levels 2-5 of PQF)**



# Government-led (Bachelors degree)

Full academic qualifications  
(Level 6 of PQF)



Unified System  
but **NOT**  
Independent



Memorandum of Understanding  
**HARMONIZATION OF DATA SYSTEMS**  
of **DEPED, CHED and TESDA**

During the first-ever Joint Management Committee Meeting of DepEd, CHED and TESDA, the three agencies signed an agreement **to establish a unified and interoperable data system to enable tracking of Filipino learners**. The three agencies will harmonize and streamline data systems to provide ready and seamless access to information on all learners across all education levels. A key commitment involves CHED and TESDA adopting and utilizing the DepEd-issued LRN as the unique identifier for higher education students.

#ItaasAngAntas #BangonEdukasyon

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 **EDCOM2**  
The Second Congressional  
Commission on Education

Memorandum of Understanding  
**HARMONIZATION OF DATA SYSTEMS**  
of **DEPED, CHED and TESDA**

DR. JESSE FRANCISCO RAMOS BENEDETTO  
DR. SHIRLEY C. AGORUPIS  
DR. JESSE FRANCISCO RAMOS BENEDETTO  
DR. TITA ALQUEDA

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DR. TITA ALQUEDA

# Statutory Authority Model

Independent Assessment Agency of four Countries

01



**Australia**

Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)

02



**Finland**

Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (FINEEC)

03



**Thailand**

National Institute of International Testing Services (NIETS)

04



**India**

National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)

- Independent for a long time (2010)
- Everyone agrees it's independent
- Policy is easy to find
- Assessment policies are evaluated and updated regularly  
**(1 cycle:3 years)**
- Tests went digital in 2018
- Offers both online and paper tests
- Results: School, student, parent

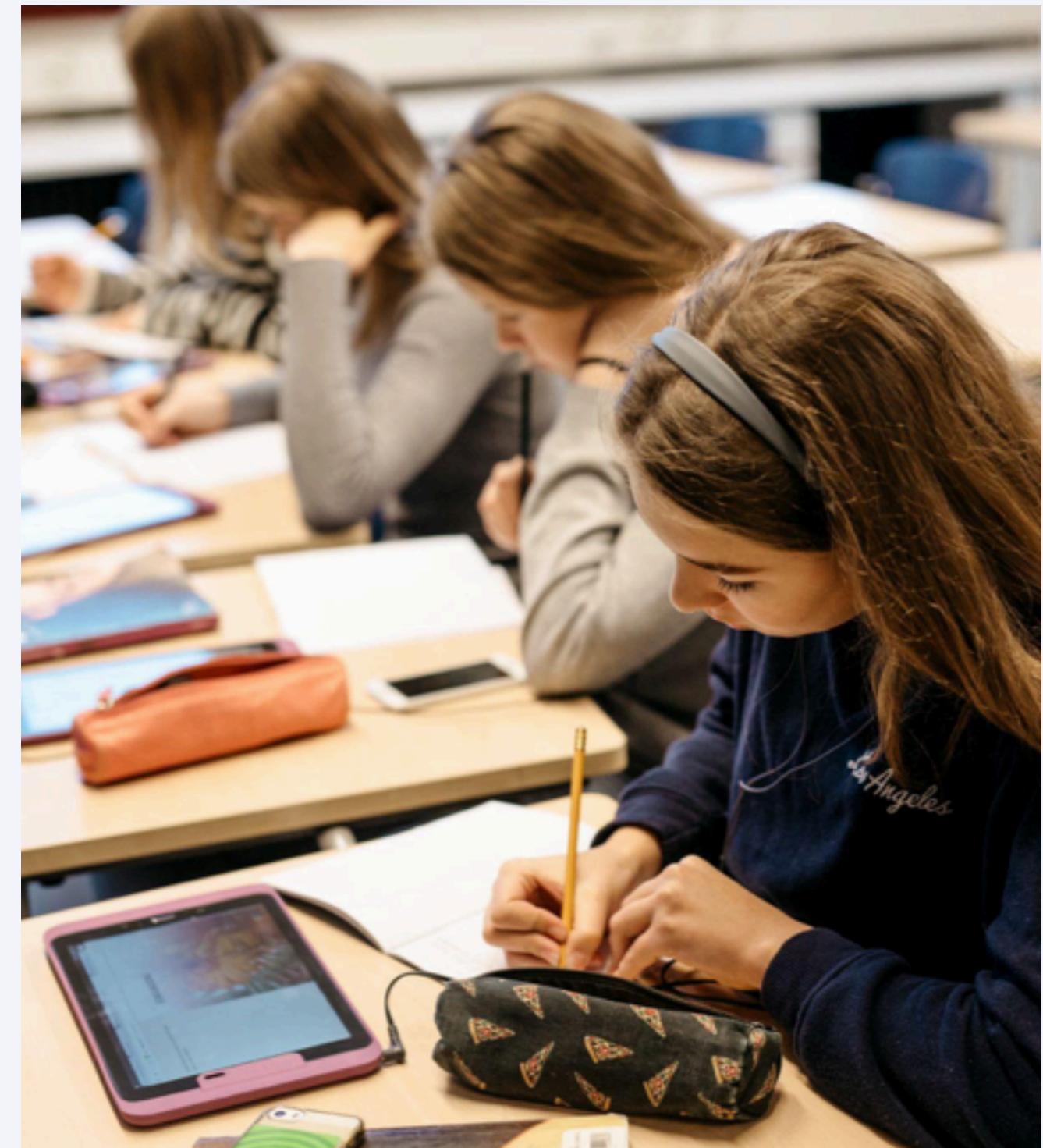


## Operational Characteristics



## Operational Characteristics

- Independent for a long time (2010)
- Everyone agrees it's independent
- Policy is easy to find
- Assessment policies are evaluated and updated regularly  
**(1 cycle:5 years)**
- Online assessment
- Results: School and student
- Evaluates program



[“After the tests, we do a more detailed look at the results. When we do a themed evaluation, every school and education provider takes part. They actually do a self-check using special guidelines created by FINEEC. It is important to note that FINEEC is the sole external evaluation provider in Finland.” (Director, FINEEC)

“The [assessment] framework is in the current transition. This is now in a current review for a National Agreement Plan (NAPLAN). What finances are attached to that framework. Because it is national, all territories agreed [on] what to [assess]. NAPLAN has been [successful] for the longest time since 2010.” (Director, ACARA)

- Independent for a long time (1999)
- Questionable existence
- Independent for a long time (1963)
- India has not excelled in international assessments



*“We question the function of this institution. And many academies, and even schoolteachers and students ask the question whether we choose to have this institute. So it’s a little bit problematic in our country about their... their function of this kind of institution.”* (Key informant, Female)

## Challenges encountered

- The **process of validating** the assessment test items (i.e., validity and reliability);
- The **relevance of test items** to the existing curriculum;
- The **timely dissemination of the results of assessments** to periodically review and give feedback to the existing curriculum.

# Success stories

01



**Australia**

Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)

02



**Finland**

Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (FINEEC)

# Struggling stories

03



**Thailand**

National Institute of International Testing Services (NIETS)

04



**India**

National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)



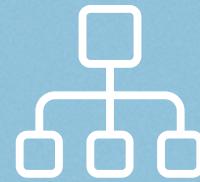
Is the Philippines ready for an independent assessment agency?

# To be ready, we need to:



**Develop a culture of evaluation**

Both present and future administrations should routinely evaluate the policy/assessment framework's effectiveness and how it improves learning outcomes.



**Increase human capital**

Increase human capital in assessment and evaluation areas: future and current workforce.



**Integrate technology**

Build a stronger technical support through innovative assessment infrastructure.

# **A TEN-YEAR AGENDA ON ESTABLISHING AN INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT AGENCY**

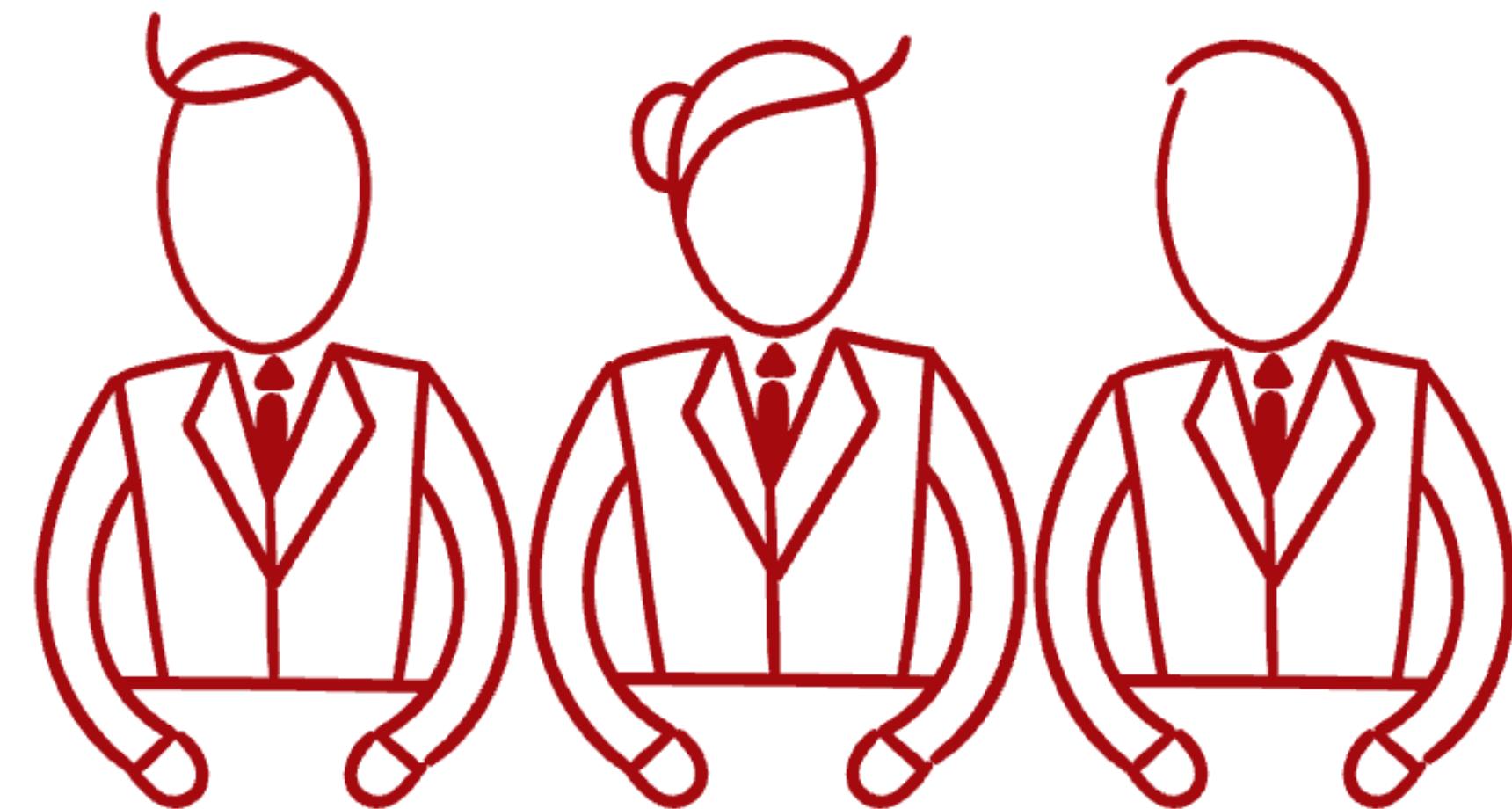
*Recommended Reference:*

**Senate Bill 1628 or the "National Educational  
Assessment and Evaluation Authority (NEAEA),"**

**Phase 1**  
2024-2026

# Establish the Independent Assessment Agency

- Establish the Governing Board
- Increase human capital in assessment and evaluation area
- Additional workforce integration
- Invest in data management
- Add collaboration and leveraging partner support for robust educational assessment



Phase 2  
2027-2029

## Evaluate and Strengthen Independent Assessment Agency

- Establish and consistently revise a high quality assessment framework in every educational tier
- Start the transition to digital assessment platform





### Phase 3

## Foster greater inclusivity through innovation

- Ensure the ongoing evaluation of the framework
- Strive for a more inclusive assessment approach
- Create and sustain a locally developed digital assessment platform for an efficient system





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# Thank you!

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