



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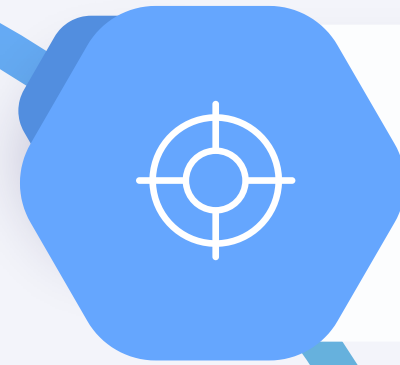
BEYOND THE TEST SCORES: WHY THE PHILIPPINES NEEDS AN INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT AGENCY

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www.pbed.ph

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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



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**



Hybrid, Multi-Provider Assessment Model/System

Landscape of the Philippine Assessment Ecosystem at the Basic Education Level



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



The image shows a formal document titled "Memorandum of Understanding HARMONIZATION OF DATA SYSTEMS of DEPED, CHED and TESDA". At the top, there are three logos: the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). Below the title, five officials from the three agencies are standing and holding copies of the signed agreement. The text below the photo states that during the first-ever Joint Management Committee Meeting, the three agencies signed an agreement to establish a unified and interoperable data system to enable tracking of Filipino learners. It also mentions that the 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.

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

DepEd, CHED, TESDA
sign agreement to
unify data systems

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
@edcom2ph www.edcom2.gov.ph

 **EDCOM2**
The Second Congressional
Commission on Education

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)

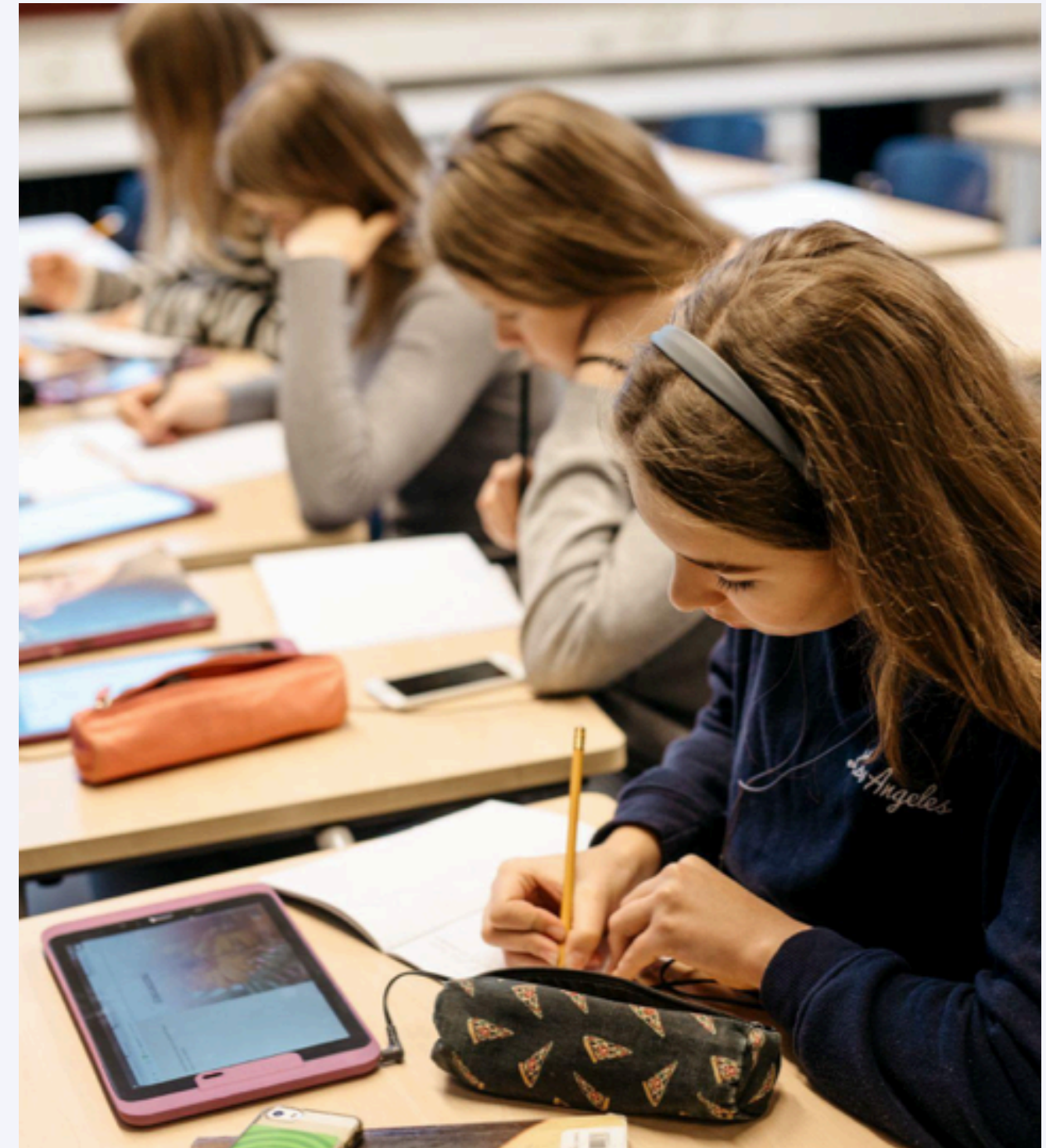
- Independent for a long time (2010)
- Everyone agrees it's independent
- Policy is easy to find
- Assessment policies are evaluated and updated regularly
(1 cycle:3 years)
- Tests went digital in 2018
- Offers both online and paper tests
- Results: School, student, parent

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)



राष्ट्रीय शैक्षिक अनुसंधान और प्रशिक्षण परिषद
National Council of Educational Research & Training

- 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)



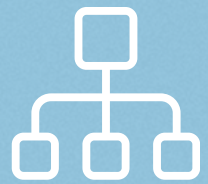
Is the Philippines ready for an independent assessment agency?

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:

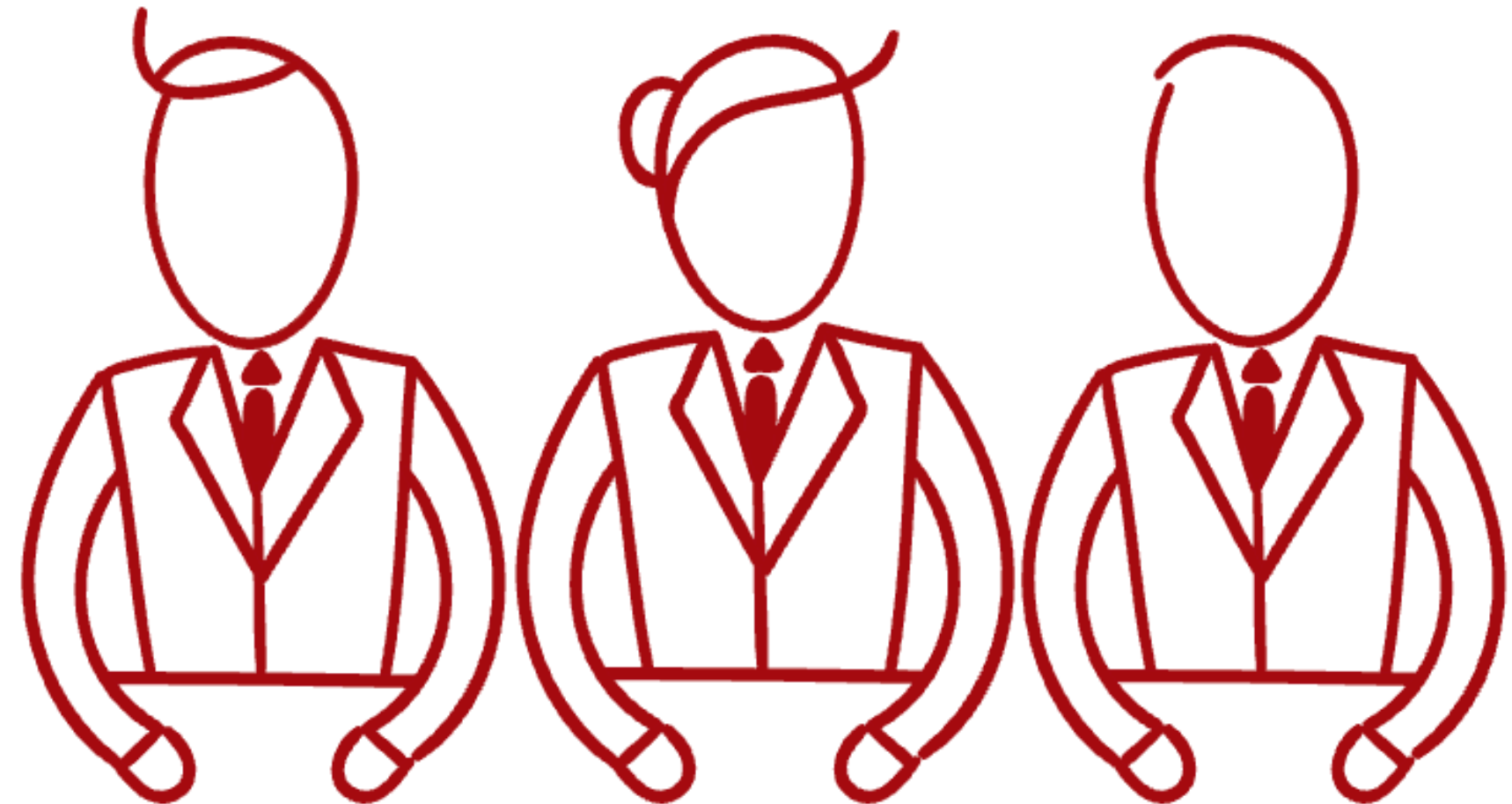
**Senate Bill 1628 or the "National Educational
Assessment and Evaluation Authority (NEAEA),"**



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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