

COMPULSORY EDUCATION ACT,  
B.E. 2545 (2002)

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BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ, REX.

Given on the 31<sup>st</sup> Day of December B.E. 2545;  
Being the 57<sup>th</sup> Year of the Present Reign.

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej is graciously pleased to proclaim that:  
Whereas it is expedient to revise the law on primary education;

This Act contains certain provisions in relation to the restriction of rights and liberties of a person, in respect of which section 29 in conjunction with section 35 and section 50 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand so permit by the virtue of law;

Be it, therefore, enacted by the King, by and with the advice and consent of the National Assembly, as follows:

**Section 1.** This Act is called the “Compulsory Education Act, B.E. 2545 (2002)”.

**Section 2<sup>1</sup>.** This Act shall come into force as from the day following the date of its publication in the Government Gazette.

**Section 3.** The Primary Education Act, B.E. 2523 (1980) shall be repealed.

**Section 4.** In this Act:

“compulsory education” means the education in the first year to the ninth year of elementary education under the law on national education;

“school” means a school providing compulsory education;

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<sup>1</sup> Published in the Government Gazette, Vol. 119, Part 128a, page 11, dated 31<sup>st</sup> December B.E. 2545.

“guardian” means parents or a parent who is a person exercising parental power or a guardian under the Civil and Commercial Code and includes a person whom a child often lives with or a child works for;

“child” means a child who is attaining seven years of age to sixteen years of age, excluding a child having passed the ninth year of compulsory education;

“Committee of the Elementary Education” means a Committee of the Elementary Education under the law on national education;

“Committee of the Educational Area” means a Committee of the Educational Area under the law on national education;

“local administrative organisation” means local administrative organisation with a school attached thereto;

“competent official” means a person appointed by the Minister for the execution of this Act;

“Minister” means the Minister having charge and control of the execution of this Act.

**Section 5.** The Committee of the Educational Area or the local administrative organisation, as the case may be, shall publish details relating to sending of a child to school and allocation of opportunities for attendance at school appeared in rules of the compulsory education by posting up a notice at an Office of the Educational Area, an office of the local administrative organisation and a school. A written notice shall be given to a guardian of a child for information no less than one year prior to the child attends a school.

**Section 6.** A guardian shall send a child to school.

Upon a request of a guardian, the school has the power to allow a child to attend the school at the age earlier or later than that under the rules of the compulsory education, provided that this shall be in accordance with the rules and procedures as prescribed by the Committee of the Elementary Education.

**Section 7.** A competent official shall have the power to enter any place during the time between sunrise and sunset, or in office hours of that place in order to inspect class attendance of a child. If the competent official finds that a child does not attend a class in the school under section 5, he or she shall send the child to the school

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and report the Committee of the Educational Area or the local administrative organisation, as the case may be, for information.

In the case where the competent official cannot send the child to school according to paragraph one, he or she shall report the Committee of the Educational Area or the local administrative organisation in the area where the child is found, as the case may be, to send the child to school.

**Section 8.** In the performance of duties, the competent official shall present the identity card to the persons concerned.

The identity card of a competent official shall be in the form prescribed by the Notification of the Minister.

**Section 9.** In the performance of the competent official's duties, the persons concerned shall provide the competent official with reasonable facilities.

**Section 10.** In the performance of duties under this Act, the competent official shall be an official under the Penal Code.

**Section 11.** Any person who is not a guardian and lives with a child who does not attend a school, shall notify an office of the educational area or a local administrative organisation, as the case may be, within one month from the date on which the child begins living with him or her, unless the guardian also lives with such person.

The notification shall be in accordance with the rules and procedures prescribed by the Notification of the Minister.

**Section 12.** The Ministry of Education, the Committee of the Educational Area, the local administrative organisation and school shall provide special education for children with physical, mental, intellectual, emotional, social, communicating and learning impairment or physical disability, or invalidity, or children unable to rely on himself or herself, or underprivileged children, or talented children so that they obtain compulsory education in appropriate forms and methods, including provision of necessary facilities, medias, services and any other assistance, in order to ensure opportunity and equality for obtaining the compulsory education.

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**Section 13.** A guardian who fails to comply with section 6 shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one thousand baht.

**Section 14.** Any person who fails to provide facilities to a competent official under section 9 shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one thousand baht.

**Section 15.** Any person, without reasonable justification, commits any act which causes a child to be unable to study in the school under this Act shall be liable to a fine not exceeding ten thousand baht.

**Section 16.** Any person who fails to comply with section 11 or informs false information shall be liable to a fine not exceeding ten thousand baht.

**Section 17.** During the time when there is no the Committee of the Elementary Education, the Committee of the National Primary Education shall act as the Committee of the Elementary Education.

**Section 18.** During the time when there is no the Committee of the Educational Area, the Committee of the Bangkok Primary Education, the Committee of the *Amphoe* Primary Education or the Committee of the *King-Amphoe* Primary Education, as the case may be, shall act as the Committee of the Educational Area. An Office of the Bangkok Primary Education, an Office of the *Amphoe* Primary Education or an Office of the *King-Amphoe* Primary Education, as the case may be, shall act as the Office of the Educational Area.

**Section 19.** All the Ministerial Regulations, Notifications, Rules, Regulations and Orders issued under the Primary Education Act, B.E. 2523 (1980) in force on the date which this Act published in the Government Gazette shall continue to be in force insofar as they are not contrary to or inconsistent of the provisions under this Act.

**Section 20.** The Minister of Education shall have charge and control of the execution of this Act, and shall have the power to appoint competent officials and shall have the power to issue Notifications for the execution of this Act.

Such Notifications shall come into force upon their publication in the Government Gazette.

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Countersigned by

Police Lieutenant Colonel Thaksin Shinawatra

Prime Minister

*Office of the Council of State*

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