



Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Press Release
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Free Higher Education provides more spending money to Filipino families

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) fully supports the "Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN)" law because it not only increases the take-home pay of salaried Filipinos by reducing income tax rates and rationalizing tax rates in other goods and services, but also funds the Free Higher Education law that puts money in the pockets of students and their families.

The Duterte Administration put close to PhP8 Billion in the pockets of parents of close to 900,000 students enrolled in 112 State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) nationwide from the Free Tuition initiative of the government in academic year 2017-2018.

President Duterte's signing of the RA 10931 or the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act (UAQTEA)" law in August 2017 is putting an additional PhP16 Billion in the pockets of the families of some 1.3M students in 112 SUCs and 78 CHED-recognized Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs) due to free tuition, miscellaneous and other school-related fees. Filipino families whose children are benefiting from free higher education can now spend their money for other household needs.

Some 300,000 poor students will also get an additional PhP40,000 to PhP60,000 per year through the Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES). With a funding of PhP16 Billion, the TES will be used for their books, food and other education expenses in either public or private universities. The TES will put more money in the pockets of student beneficiaries and their families.

On top of these educational benefits, Filipino families will have extra money under TRAIN'S new income tax schedule. Individuals earning a gross annual income of PhP250,000 or less will have 0% income tax rate. This leads to a greater take home pay for the average Filipino income earner.

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