



Archana Sharma Awasthi  
Joint Secretary (SS.I & AE)

Dated: 15.02.2024  
D.O. No. 22-7/2021-EE.19/IS.13

Dear *Madam/Sir,*

I would like to invite your kind attention to this Department's D.O. letter No. 9-2/20-IS-3 dated 31.03.2021 followed by D.O. letter of even number dated 09.02.2023 (copies enclosed) wherein all States/UTs were requested to align the age of admission as per the provision contained in National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 and ensure admission to Grade-I at the age of 6+ year.

The session 2024-25 is soon to begin when new admissions will take place. It is expected that the age in your State/UT has now been aligned to 6+ for admission to Grade-I, accordingly.

I request you to kindly look into the matter personally, to ensure compliance and share the implementation status of the same by 20.02.2024. For the purpose, you may share the notification/instruction passed by you in this regard.

*Best Wishes,*

Yours sincerely,

(Archana Sharma Awasthi)

1. The ACS/ Pr.Secretary/ Secretary Education of all States and UTs
2. Heads of CBSE, KVS

Copy to:

1. PPS to Secretary, DoSE&L
2. PPS to AS (SS – II), DoSE&L
3. PPS to JS (Institution), DoSE&L
4. SPD States/UTs



Archana Sharma Awasthi  
Joint Secretary (AE & Coord.)  
Tel. No. 011-23386232

Dated: 09.02.2023

D.O. No. 22-7/2021-EE.19/IS.13

*Dear Sir/Madam,*

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recommends strengthening learning at the foundational stage as a national priority. The policy envisages a pedagogical structure of 5+3+3+4 which means 5 years of foundational classes (3-8 years), 3 years of preparatory classes (8-11 years), 3 years of middle classes (11-14 years) and 4 years (14-18 years) of secondary classes.

In view of the provisions of NEP 2020 and RTE Act 2009, all the States and UTs were requested to align their age of admission with the policy and provide admission to Grade I at the age of 6+ years. This will bring uniformity in the age of admission in Grade I across nation. In this regard, D.O. letter no. 9-2/20-1S-3 dated 31.03.2021 (copy enclosed) was sent to all States/UTs with a request to ensure implementation of age criteria for admission to Grade I and also share the roadmap and action taken report with us.

**Substantial time has elapsed since the issuance of the above D.O. letter. It is requested to share the status along with road map of the implementation of age criteria for admission to Grade I in your State/UT.**

In addition to the above, as per para 1.4 of NEP 2020, all of the preschool models would recruit workers/teachers specially trained in the curriculum and pedagogy of Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE). NEP also envisages that all "Preparatory Class" or "Balavatika" should have an ECCE qualified teacher (para 1.6). Therefore, to fulfill the NEP vision, it is expected that each State and UT runs two years of Diploma in Preschool Education (DPSE) approved by the NCTE.

It is requested that the process of designing and running two years DPSE course in your State/UT may kindly be initiated, if not already done. SCERT, being the academic body, can be given the task of designing the course and setting further modalities. The course should be run/implemented through DIETs under supervision and hold of SCERT and approved by NCTE.

*with regards,*

Yours sincerely,



(Archana Sharma Awasthi)

**The Education Secretaries of all States and UTs**

22-7/2021-EE.19

1183985/2021-16-4 Section

सूचना का  
अधिकार

भारत सरकार  
शिक्षा मंत्रालय  
स्कूल शिक्षा और साक्षरता विभाग  
शास्त्री भवन

नई दिल्ली - 110 115

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION &amp; LITERACY

SHASTRI BHAVAN

NEW DELHI-110 115

Dated 31th March, 2021

Maneesh Garg  
Joint Secretary (SS-II)

D.O. No. 9-2/20-IS-3

Respected Ma'am/Sir,

Several representations from parents and media have been received regarding anomaly in age criteria prescribed for admission in various classes in schools in different States and UTs, leading to difficulties being faced by students in seeking admissions in schools on inter-state movement or the eligibility age for appearing in various competitive exams.

2. In this regard, comments were sought from all the States and UTs regarding age of admission in various classes in schools. Based on the reports given by all the States and UTs, it has been observed that 13 States/UTs are taking admission in class 1 at age 5+, whereas 21 States are taking at 6+. This anomaly also results in incorrect reporting of enrolment of children in age-appropriate classes and hence incorrect reporting of under-age and overage children, thus affecting the Net Enrolment ratios in different states and at the national level.

3. The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 envisages a pedagogical structure of 5+3+3+4. The first 5 years comprise of 3 years of pre-school/anganwadi/balvatika corresponding to the age groups of 3-6 years and 2 years of Class 1 & 2 corresponding to the age group of 6-8 years. Also, The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 states that every child of the age of 6-14 years shall have a right to free and compulsory education in a neighbourhood school till completion of elementary education (defined as education from first class to eighth under the Act).

3. In view of the provisions of NEP, 2020 and RTE Act, 2009, all the States and UTs are requested to align their age of admission with the NEP, 2020 and provide for admission to class 1 in age 6+ years in order to bring uniformity in age of admission throughout the country. In this regard a roadmap may be prepared state wise to ensure smooth transition over next 2-3 years.

4. In view of the above, you are requested to take appropriate action and to ensure implementation of uniform age criteria for admission to class 1 in your jurisdiction. The road map and action taken report in this regard may be shared with this Department at the earliest.

With regards,

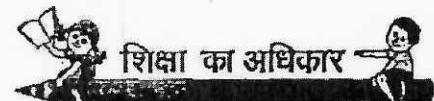
Yours sincerely,

*Maneesh*  
(Maneesh Garg) 31/3/21

To,

The Education Secretaries of All the States and UTs,

Copy to: SPDs of SIS under Samagra Shiksha of All States/UTs



सर्व शिक्षा अभियान

सब पढ़ें सब बढ़ें