



CBSE/ACAD/JS(AHA)/CwSN/2025

Dated: 18.08.2025
Circular No. Acad-57/2025

To,
Heads of all the institutions affiliated to CBSE

Subject: Addressing the Disparity in Enrollment and Inclusion of Children with Special Needs (CwSN) in CBSE Schools

1. Policy Background:

Central Board of Secondary Education reiterates its commitment to inclusive education as mandated under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE), 2009, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2023.

The NEP 2020 (paras 6.2.5, 6.13, and 6.14) and NCF 2023 also emphasize building an inclusive school culture, where diversity is valued and supported through personalized and flexible learning pathways.

2. CBSE Mandates

Though special provisions and institutions for Special Children are provided by respective State and UT govt. (the issue being the state responsibility), CBSE being a student-friendly trend setting Board mandates certain provisions in its byelaws.

Consistent with the RPWD Act, 2016, CBSE Affiliation Bye-Laws Clauses 4.7.3, 14.15.1 and 14.15.2 mandate all schools to:

- Provide barrier-free access, assistive infrastructure, and inclusive pedagogical approaches.
- Appoint qualified special educators (as per Circular No. 13/2017).
- Ensure CwSN are admitted without discrimination and supported with reasonable facilitations as directed by Board vide its circulars from time to time.
- Offer examination-related concessions and exemptions (as detailed in Circular No. 5/2019).
- Record CwSN details through the Online portal for availing exemptions/facilities by CwSN students in examinations (Circular dated 21.12.2022).





-2-

3. Present Situation:

While the number of CwSN appearing in the classes X and XII is increasing every year, it is a matter of grave concern that a disparity appears to persist in the actual enrollment of Children with Special Needs (CwSN) in schools.

In 2025, in class X, 9248 CwSN students from 4,484 schools appeared in Board examinations. Similarly, in class XII, 5712 CwSN students from 3107 schools appeared.

Further, the PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024 report (page 34) reveals both progress and gaps with respect to the status of CwSN in schools. The survey has found that approximately 52% of schools CwSN are receiving support they need from their school teachers, showing some level of inclusion. However, only 38% of these schools have been reported to have trained/certified teachers to look after the students with special needs. It highlights a significant resource gap for providing individualized support. In terms of infrastructure and pedagogy, accessibility remains a challenge, with many schools lacking basic facilities such as ramps or mobility aids or special books (Braille Books). Although some teachers have undergone training in inclusive education, the report stress the need of expanding specialized training programs for enhancing inclusivity. Pedagogical adaptations for CwSN are limited, and teaching practices often do not accommodate the diverse learning needs of these students.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that approximately 15% of any population lives with some form of disability (World Report on Disability-2011-World Health Organisation). The present enrolment figures in CBSE schools are far away from this reality and point to a systemic gap in outreach, admission, and support for students with disabilities. These findings also underscore the need for systemic efforts to strengthen inclusion.

4. Directions for CBSE schools for mandatory compliance:

In light of the above, all CBSE-affiliated schools are hereby reminded and advised to:

i. Adopt a Zero Refusal Policy

As per the provisions of the RTE Act, 2009 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and in line with relevant state government guidelines (such as the Delhi Government Notification No. F.19/DDE(IEDSS)/Admi.Cel/PSB/2018/26923 dated 23.07.2018 a minimum of 3% of the 25% RTE quota must be reserved for CwSN.), all schools must:





-3-

- Clearly declare the number of seats reserved for CwSN at the time of admissions as per the policy of their respective State /UT Government;
- Admit all eligible CwSN applicants within the reserved quota;
- Ensure that admitted CwSN students receive appropriate academic and infrastructural support, fostering a barrier-free and inclusive environment.

Failure to admit CwSN despite available reserved seats, or failure to meet declared commitments toward inclusion, will be treated as non-compliance.

All schools are advised to review their admission and classroom practices to ensure full implementation of inclusive education norms.

ii. **Comply with Inclusive Infrastructure Norms**

All schools must strictly implement the revised infrastructural standards specified in Circular No. 11/2024 dated 09.08.2024, including ramps, lifts, tactile signage, accessible toilets, etc.

ii. **Appoint and Retain Special Educators**

Every school must have at least one trained and full-time special educator to support inclusion. (Clause 2.4.12)

iii. **Utilize and Update the CWSN Portal**

Accurate data regarding CwSN must be entered in the CBSE's OASIS and examination portal through the school's LoC login, including documentation if any for concessions and exam accommodations.

iv. **Implement Pedagogical Accommodations**

Inclusive learning materials, differentiated instruction, and use of assistive technology must be adopted to meet the learning needs of all students. Schools can make use of Handbook of Inclusive Education published by CBSE available at https://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/Manuals/handbook-inclusive-education.pdf

v. **Capacity Building of Teachers on Inclusive Education**

Augment teachers' capacity in inclusive education through capacity building programmes. CBSE's training policy may be adhered to in the regard.

The Board may also conduct unannounced inspections for verification.





केन्द्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड

(शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन एक स्वायत्त संगठन)

CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

(An Autonomous Organisation Under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)



-4-

Inclusive education is not merely a matter of policy compliance; it is rather a constitutional and moral obligation for all of us. All Principals and Managers are, thus, urged to take sincere efforts to uphold the rights and dignity of CwSN and ensure their full participation in the school system.

Dr. Praggya M. Singh
Director (Academics)

Copy to the respective Heads of Directorates, Organizations and Institutions as indicated below with a request to disseminate the information to all the schools under their jurisdiction:

1. The Commissioner, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, 18, Institutional Area, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, Delhi- 110016
2. The Commissioner, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, B-15, Sector-62, Institutional Area, Noida
3. The Director of Education, Directorate of Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Old Secretariat, Delhi - 110054
4. The Director of Public Instructions (Schools), Union Territory Secretariat, Sector 9, Chandigarh
5. The Director of Education, Govt. of Sikkim, Gangtok, Sikkim - 737101
6. The Director of School Education, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar - 791 111
7. The Director of Education, Govt. of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Port Blair - 744101
8. The Director, Central Tibetan School Administration, ESSESS Plaza, Community Centre, Sector 3, Rohini, New Delhi
9. The Secretary, Sainik Schools Society, Room No.101, D-1 Wing, Sena Bhawan, New Delhi-1
10. The Additional Director, General of Army Education, A – Wing, Sena Bhawan, DHQ, PO, New Delhi – 110001
11. The Secretary, AWES, Integrated Headquarters of MoD (Army), FDRC Building No. 202, Shankar Vihar (Near APS), Delhi Cantt – 110010
12. The Secretary, Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India
13. The Chairman, Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan, N-1/9, Near Doordarshan Kendra, PO Sainik School Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751005
14. The Deputy Secretary to Chairman, CBSE - for kind information of the Chairman, CBSE
15. All the Heads of Department/ Directors of the Board
16. All the Regional Directors/Regional Officers/Head-COEs, CBSE with the request to send this circular to all the Heads of the affiliated schools of the Board in their respective regions for compliance
17. Director (Media & Public Relations), CBSE – with a request to give wider publicity to this notification.
18. Joint Secretary (IT), CBSE, Rouse Avenue with the request to upload this notification on the CBSE Academic website
19. Incharge, Hindi Cell, CBSE HQ – for Hindi Translation of this notification

Director (Academic)



'एकीकृत कार्यालय परिसर, सेक्टर - 23, द्वारका, नई दिल्ली - 110077'
'Integrated Office Complex, Sector - 23, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110077'

