

HARYANA TAKES LEAD IN IMPLEMENTING KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF NATIONAL
EDUCATION POLICY 2020 PERTAINING TO SCHOOL EDUCATION
Notification No. 7/24-2020 PS(4). Dated the 8th December, 2021

Para 8.1 of NEP 2020 reads: *...regulation must aim to empower schools and teachers with trust, enabling them to strive for excellence and perform at their very best, while ensuring the integrity of the system through the enforcement of complete transparency and full public disclosure...*

Salient points of landmark amendment of Rules 158–160 of Haryana School Education Rules:

1. Fee structure has been unified and simplified to enable parents establish clear understanding and comparison of fee across various unaided private schools;
2. Arbitrary fee increase by certain unaided private schools has been totally curbed;
3. Parent community shall now have predictability of financial outlay for the entire schooling journey of their wards as year-on-year fee increase has been restricted to CPI + 5%;
4. Teacher's welfare has been put at center-stage of unaided private schools. Unaided private schools can increase year on year fee only commensurate to per capita increase in teacher salary;
5. Parent community has been empowered to make informed decisions. Extensive set of public disclosures have been mandated to remain in public domain throughout the year;
6. Unaided private schools have been barred from collecting fee on annual basis;
7. Unaided private schools can no more compel parents to purchase books, workbooks, stationery, shoes, socks, uniform etc only from a particular shop;
8. Unaided private schools are barred to change uniform before five years;
9. Unaided private schools are barred to revise fee in the middle of an academic year;
10. Unaided private schools are barred from profiteering by increasing fee in excess of what is permitted by the Rules and by collecting any kind of capitation fee;
11. Unaided private schools can deploy their surplus only for 'educational purposes'
12. Transparent and efficient parental grievance redressal framework has been established at local level with Fee and Fund Regulatory Committees under chairmanship of jurisdictional Divisional Commissioners;
13. Stringent step-up penal mechanism put in place for erring unaided private schools:
 - a. First violation punishable with imposition of penalty up to Rs thirty thousand for primary schools, Rs fifty thousand for middle schools and Rs one lac for secondary and senior secondary schools;
 - b. Second violation punishable with imposition of penalty up to Rs sixty thousand for primary schools, Rs one lac for middle schools and Rs two lacs for secondary and senior secondary schools;
 - c. Third violation punishable with add on penalty of second violation and de-recognition of school;
14. Appeal against orders of FFRC can be made to Director; Appeals against orders of Director can be made to Additional Chief Secretary, School Education;
15. Simple and self-regulatory framework shall plug any kind of misinterpretation at ground level thereby putting an end to inspector-raj;
16. Primary schools charging fee up to Rs 12,000 PA and Middle/Secondary/Senior Secondary schools charging fee up to Rs 15,000 exempted from fee regulations provisions.