

No. EDN-C-F(1)-2/2023  
Government of Himachal Pradesh  
Department of School Education

From:

Secretary (Education) to the  
Government of Himachal Pradesh

To

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**The Director of School Education,  
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-1**

Dated: Shimla-171002, the

**12<sup>th</sup> March, 2026**

Subject: - **Regarding implementation of age criteria for admission to Class Nursery to Class-1<sup>st</sup> as per NEP 2020-Clarification thereof.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No. EDN(SE)-H(10)F(4)-2/2025 dated 11-03-2026 on the subject cited above and to say that as various queries have been raised by field officers, schools, parents and other stakeholders regarding admission/promotion to the next class in accordance with the instructions issued vide this Department's letters of even number dated 24-11-2023, 17-12-2024 and 24-12-2025 for adoption of age criteria for admission to Class Nursery/Balvatika-I to Class-1<sup>st</sup>, the matter has been examined in detail at the Government level and, after due consideration, following is clarified:-

1. A student who completes the requisite age criteria for admission to Class Nursery to Class-1<sup>st</sup>, as per the instructions dated 24-12-2025, on or before 30<sup>th</sup> September of the academic year in which admission is sought, **shall be granted admission to the respective class, as the case may be, from the commencement of the academic session/admission process of that academic year.**

**For example:** if a child's date of birth is 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 and he/she seeks admission to Balvatika-I on 15-02-2026 or on the date of commencement of admissions for the academic year 2026-27, he/she shall be eligible for admission to Balvatika-I on the date of commencement of the academic session/admission process of that academic year, as the child will complete the age of 3+ years on 15-04-2026, i.e. before the cut-off date of 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2026.

2. In cases where a child has already been enrolled in any of the pre-primary classes during the current academic session, i.e., 2026-27, and the child fulfills the prescribed age criteria for admission to the next higher class as per the instructions dated 24-12-2025 on or before 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2026, such child shall be eligible for admission to the **next age-appropriate class (up to Class 1<sup>st</sup>)** in accordance with the said instructions.

**For example:** If a child whose date of birth is 25-08-2020 is presently enrolled in Balvatika-II or Balvatika-III during the academic session 2026-27, the child shall be eligible for admission to **Class-1<sup>st</sup>**, as the child will attain the prescribed age of 6+ years for **Class-1<sup>st</sup>** on or before the cut-off date of 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2026

However, such admission shall be made **subject to the consent of the parents/guardians**. The school shall not deny admission if the child fulfills the prescribed criteria and the parent/guardian gives consent.

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3. The revised age criteria, as well as the cut-off date for determining age for admission from Class Nursery/Balvatika-1 to Class-1<sup>st</sup> (as per instructions dated 24-12-2025), are mandatory and uniformly applicable to all schools in the State of Himachal Pradesh, including all private schools.
4. In case of any violation of these instructions by any school, the aggrieved person may prefer an appeal against such action of the school before the Deputy Director School Education (Elementary) of the concerned District. The decision of the Deputy Director School Education (Elementary) shall be final and binding on all schools, including private schools.

You are, therefore, requested to ensure strict compliance with these instructions. Any violation shall be dealt with under the provisions of the RTE HP Rules, 2025.

Yours faithfully,

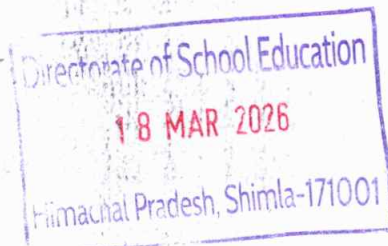
(Anil Kumar)  
Additional Secretary (Education) to the  
Government of Himachal Pradesh

No. EDN(SE)-H(10)F(4)-2/2025-26(Admission)  
Directorate of School Education  
Himachal Pradesh.

Endst. No. Even Dated: Shimla-171001 the March, 2026

Copy for information and further necessary action is forwarded to:-

1. All the Deputy Directors of School Education (Secondary/Elementary) Himachal Pradesh with request to circulate the same to all the Principals/Headmasters of Govt. and Private schools under their jurisdiction for further necessary action.
2. The State Project Director (SS) Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-171001.
3. All Block Elementary Education Offices in Himachal Pradesh.
4. Nodal Officer, IT Cell, DSE HP Shimla-1 to upload the same on the Departmental website.
5. Guard file.



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Director School Education  
Himachal Pradesh.