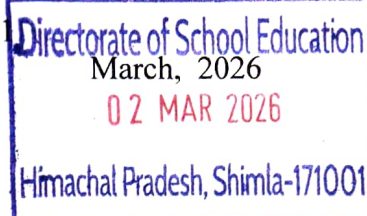


No. EDN-H (18)F(5)-43/2026-Misc
Directorate of School Education
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-171001
Dated: Shimla-171001,



OFFICE ORDER

WHEREAS, it has come to the notice of the undersigned that enrolment during the ongoing admission process in several Government Schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has increased substantially across the State;

WHEREAS, during the Virtual Meeting held on 25.02.2026 with the Principals, Presidents, and members of School Management Committees (SMCs) of such Government CBSE-affiliated schools, it was brought to the notice of the authorities that, owing to infrastructural constraints, creation of additional sections is not permissible under the applicable CBSE Affiliation Bye-laws and guidelines, resulting in difficulties in accommodating all eligible students seeking admission, for which clarifications and suitable administrative directions have been sought from the Government as well as this Directorate;

WHEREAS, the above matter was also deliberated upon in the Departmental Review Meeting held on 27.02.2026, wherein it was decided to permit the functioning of the such schools in two shifts as a temporary administrative measure, in order to address the prevailing enrolment pressure and infrastructural constraints; and,

WHEREAS, it has been observed that denial of admission to eligible students solely on account of section restrictions or space constraints would be against public interest and the objective of ensuring equitable access to quality education;

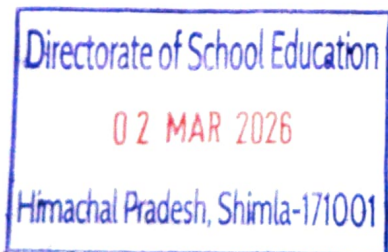
NOW, THEREFORE, in view of the high enrolment pressure due to increased admissions in schools and existing infrastructural limitations, it is hereby ordered that all such Government Senior Secondary Schools affiliated to CBSE in the State shall be permitted to function in two shifts, as a special and temporary administrative arrangement, with immediate effect and until further orders, in the public interest, subject to the following conditions:


- 1. Schools shall not operate in a shift system where enhancement of sections is admissible under the CBSE Affiliation Bye-laws or instructions issued from time to time, through OASIS data updation and the section enhancement option under SARAS 6.0*
- 2. In cases where adequate infrastructure becomes available due to downgrading, merger, or closure of adjoining Government schools*

or through availability of rent-free accommodation or other Government buildings or other suitable public infrastructure, the Principal concerned may, in consultation with this Directorate, initiate the process for enhancement of sections or Branch Affiliation of the school i.e Primary, Middle, or Secondary wings, as deemed appropriate and strictly in accordance with CBSE norms.

3. *In case above two options are ^{not} feasible, school shall run classes in two shifts. An adequate time gap between the two shifts shall be ensured to facilitate orderly transition, safety, sanitation, and effective academic supervision. Ordinarily, junior classes shall be conducted in the morning shift and Senior Secondary classes in the evening shift. The Principal concerned shall be competent to finalize and notify the detailed operational modalities of the shift system in consultation with concerned SMCs.*
4. *Students and parents may be appropriately counseled and facilitated, without any coercion, to opt for admission in adjoining Government schools, based on their choice, convenience, and willingness.*
5. *This arrangement shall not be treated as a permanent measure and shall remain subject to periodic review by the competent authority. The State Government or Directorate reserves the right to modify, withdraw, or discontinue this arrangement at any stage in the event of non-compliance with prescribed norms, availability of adequate infrastructure, or reduction in enrolment pressure etc.*
6. *The Principal concerned shall be personally responsible for effective implementation, continuous monitoring, and strict compliance with these conditions and shall issue such detailed operational instructions or guidelines as may be necessary to ensure smooth, safe, and disciplined functioning of the institution in both shifts.*

Above arrangement shall be subject to approval by Central Board of Secondary School and this order shall come into force with immediate effect.




Ashish Kohli, IAS
Director
Directorate of School Education
Himachal Pradesh
March, 2026

Endst. No. of Even dated Shimla-171001 the
Copy forwarded to:-

1. The Secretary (Education) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
2. All the Deputy Directors of School Education (Secondary), Himachal Pradesh for information and compliance.
3. All the Deputy Directors of School Education (Elementary/Quality), Himachal Pradesh for information and similar compliance.
4. All Principals, Government Senior Secondary School affiliated to CBSE for information and necessary action.