



DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
WEST BENGAL
ADMIN SECTION
Bikash Bhavan (7th. Floor), Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091

Memo No. 62-SC/AA DSE-11099/11/2024-CMO SEC-DSE

Date- 18/01/2024

From:- Dy. Director of School Education (Admin),
Bikash Bhavan, 7th. Floor, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091.

To:- D.I of Schools, SE, (All districts).

Sub:- Wide publicity of the "SCHEME OF RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS IN HIGH SCHOOLS IN TARGETED AREAS" (SHRESTHA) for SC students.

Ref:- Letter from the Jt. Secretary to the GoI, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment , vide D.O No. 17013/01/2023-SCD-III, Dated 19/12/2023

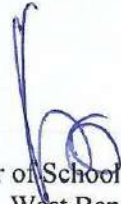
With reference to the above, it may be noted that Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, GoI has launched the "SCHEME OF RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS IN HIGH SCHOOLS IN TARGETED AREAS" (SHRESTHA) for the meritorious SC students.

The salient features of the scheme are as follows:

- 1) Each year 3000 such students will be selected by the national Testing Agency through a National level entrance test.
- 2) Selected students will be **sent to study best private residential schools in the country.**
- 3) The entry classes are class 9 and class 11.

Now, he/ she is requested to circulate this scheme among all the Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools under his/ her jurisdiction.

Letter of the Jt. Secretary to the GoI, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment , vide D.O No. 17013/01/2023-SCD-III, Dated 19/12/2023 is enclosed for his/her reference.

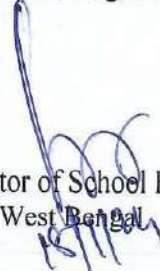

Dy. Director of School Education (Admin),
West Bengal

Memo No. 62/1(2)-SC/AA DSE-11099/11/2024-CMO SEC-DSE

Date- 18/01/2024

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:-

- 1) Sri Biswaranjan Sasmal, Jt. Secretary to the GoI, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- 2) Sri Shisadri Chatterjee, A.I/S with request to upload this letter to the Banglar Siksha Portal.


Dy. Director of School Education (Admin),
West Bengal

Biswaranjan Sasmal
संयुक्त सचिव
Joint Secretary

011-23383853



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय
सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता विभाग
शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली-110 115

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
SHASTRI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI-110 115

D.O. No. 17013/01/2023-SCD-III
Dated: 19th December, 2023



Dear Madam/Sir,

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India is running the 'Scheme of Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas' (SHRESHTA) from academic year 2022-23 to arrange quality education for meritorious SC Boys and Girls selected through a nationwide *National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS)* to study in the best private residential schools in the country.

2. As part of the Scheme, every year the best private residential schools are selected based on parameters such as: the school has been in existence for at least 5 years; having more than 75% pass percentage in Class 10 and 12 in the last 3 years; and having adequate infrastructure for admitting additional at least (10) SC students in 9th and 11th Classes (together).

3. The entry for student is in Class 9 and 11 till the completion of education upto Class 12. Every year, 3000 fresh students are selected under the Scheme through a National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS) conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA). Allocation of school is done by web counseling process, allocating the seats as per merit and choices of the students.

4. Financial assistance is provided by directly transferring the money to the selected schools electronically towards tuition and hostel fees of students as per actual charged by the school or the prescribed limit mentioned in the Scheme guidelines whichever is less. No fee or any other charges is chargeable from the beneficiary students by SHRESHTA Schools. Apart from this, there is a provision of grant upto 10% of annual fees for enhancing capacity of the admitted SC students so that they can catch up with the rest of the class.

5. For the year 2024-25, it is expected that NETS will be conducted in April 2024. I would like your State / UT to arrange wide publicity of the Scheme in all the schools through social media and other platforms so that meritorious SC Boys / Girls students can be benefited under the Scheme. A copy of the Scheme Guidelines is enclosed for ready reference.

With regards,

Received Date 11/01/2024 Time 02.10 P.M.
Received By [Signature]
Referred to [Signature]
Remark work on file

Sincerely,

[Signature]
(Biswaranjan Sasmal)

To

Principal Secretary
Department of School Education
Principal Secretary, School Education Department of States/UTs
Principal Secretary, Social Security Welfare/Social Welfare Department of States/UTs

**Revised Scheme For Residential Education For Students
in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESTA)
(FROM 2023-24 TO 2025-26)**

1. OBJECTIVE

Providing quality education and opportunities for even the poorest is the Constitutional mandate. The students from the Scheduled Caste communities, for long been subjects of untouchability, were kept out of quality education; a situation that perpetuates the disadvantages carried forward for generations of discrimination. The Governmental efforts to spread educational facilities without discrimination have worked well in achieving near universal access. However, the objective of providing access to quality education that provides a level playing field, is still far from reality. The scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA) has been conceived to provide access to high quality education to the students from Scheduled Caste communities.

The objective of SHRESHTA is to enhance the reach of development Intervention of the Government and to fill the gap in service deficient SCs dominant areas, in the sector of education through the efforts of grant-in-aid institutions (run by NGOs) and residential high schools offering high quality education and to provide environment for socio economic upliftment and over all development of the Scheduled Castes (SCs). The Scheme is further modified to provide easier access to the bright SC students in the best schools in the Country, thereby securing their future opportunities.

2. Modalities of operation

The scheme would be implemented in two Modes:

**Mode 1: SHRESHTA schools
(Best CBSE private Residential Schools)**

Under this, each year a specified number of meritorious SC students in States/UTs will be selected through the National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS) to be conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) and admitted in the best private residential schools identified based on the database of the CBSE, **the residential schools recommended under SHRESHTA by District Authorities in 2021-22 and other eligible private residential schools affiliated to any other Board, including State Boards, recommended by District Authorities for participation in the scheme.** Admission of students will be done in classes 9th and 11th for completion of education till 12th standard based on selection through NTA.

Thereafter, the students may be connected to Post Matric Scholarship Scheme or Top-Class Education Scheme to continue their further studies with adequate financial aid.

This component (Mode-1) shall be operationalized as per the following details:

1. Selection of schools:

- a. The best performing private residential schools identified based on the database of the CBSE, **the residential schools recommended under SHRESHTA by District Authorities in 2021-22 and**

- (NETS)".
- ii. The NETS would be conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA).
 - iii. The test would be conducted all over the county.
 - iv. The selected students would be offered choices of the SHRESHTA schools.
 - v. For exercising this option, a web counselling system shall be developed by the NIC. In order to ensure that all the seats are filled, there may be multiple rounds of web-counseling.

3. Number of seats:

- i. The tentative *number of seats for fresh admissions* for each year upto 2025-26 would be as follows:

	9th Class	11 th class	Total*
2023-24	1500	1500	3000
2024-25	1500	1500	3000
2025-26	1500	1500	3000

* In case it is observed that there are vacant slots in either of the categories of class 9th or class 11th, the same will be adjusted towards the other category if there is availability of more eligible students in that category.

4. Admission:

- i. Once the school is selected by the student, the school would automatically, and without any further test, admit the student.
- ii. The fee for the student covering the school fee (including tuition fees etc.) and hostel fee (including mess charges) would be released directly to the schools by the Ministry within 30 days from the date of confirmation of admission on the IT portal.
- iii. The school should provide hostel facilities for the students and provide necessary assistance for the students to settle down in the new environment.
- iv. The school may designate one of the teachers as the Counsellor, who would resolve the difficulties faced, if any, by the students.
- v. The students admitted in Class 9 or 11, including the students admitted during the F.Y. 2021-22, shall automatically be funded for the next classes till they complete 12th class, subject to their passing the exams of the previous class.

5. Bridge Course:

- i. To ensure that the SC students so admitted can catch up with the rest of the class, a Bridge Course may be conducted by the school covering the topics given in Annexure-1.
- ii. The bridge course should be conducted outside-the-school-hours after identifying the individual academic requirements.
- iii. An amount of upto 10% of the annual fee can be provided separately under

Mode 2: NGO operated schools (Guidelines hereinafter applicable only for Mode 2 of the Scheme)

Schools/Hostels run by VOs/NGOs having higher classes (upto at least class 12) and who have been receiving Grant-in-aid will be continued, subject to satisfactory performance (as provided in Para 4.2 of the Guidelines). The NGO-run primary schools (classes 1 to 8) would be given time for upgrading into Secondary/Sr. Secondary Schools (upto at least class 10) before 2027, failing which they may not be supported under the scheme. *The upgradation of school(s) from primary level to Secondary level (classes 9 & 10) may be done by addition of one class every year. It is also proposed that PMU will be provided a checklist to assess the suitability of the school for such upgradation, viz. adequate infrastructure, approval of State Government/ Board for upgrading, pass percentage, number and quality of teachers and staff, etc. No new school shall be taken up under this mode.* With regard to upgradation of schools from Primary to secondary, as per revised guidelines there is no provision for increase of seats while upgradation of school

The schools being given grant-in-aid must maintain good academic quality, have adequate infrastructure, shall have recognition of the State Government and affiliated to State/Central Board. Failure in any of these essential prerequisites would entail cancellation of the grant-in-aid.

In order to be eligible for assistance under this Mode, an organization should meet the following conditions:-

- a. Organisation should be a reputed school chain, CSR foundation, Reputed organization etc., who are running good quality schools recognized by the State Govt. and affiliated to State/Central Boards
- b. The organisation should have been registered and should be working in quality school education.
- c. The organisation shall have a properly constituted Managing Committee with its powers, duties and responsibilities clearly defined and laid down in a written Constitution; it shall have an appropriate administrative structure and a duly constituted Managing/Executive Committee.
- d. The organisation is initiated and governed by its own members on democratic principles.
- e. The organization shall be a non-profit entity.
- f. The organisation should have its own website for pro-active disclosure of the information, as far as possible.
- g. The VO/NGO should be registered on the NGO DARPAN portal of NITI Aayog.**

Under this Mode, grants shall be sanctioned in favour of the organization(s) subject to prescribed financial norms and terms & conditions as stipulated and revised from time to time by this Ministry.

The grant shall be sanctioned in accordance with and as per the procedure laid down under General Financial Rules, 2017 as amended from time to time. The Ministry will issue the sanction order in the name of the President/Secretary and transfer the funds to the bank account of the organization which should be under joint operation. If the headquarter of the organization is not located at the project site, the funds will be in turn

- iv. The grant-in-aid shall be released after the grantee organization executes an Agreement Bond in prescribed proforma to the effect that in the event of its failure to abide by any or all the conditions stipulated in the sanction letter, it shall be liable to refund with interest thereon whole or such part of the grant as the Government of India may decide.
- v. Sanctioned strength of the ongoing project can be enhanced with the approval of the Secretary(SJE).

4. PROJECTS ELIGIBLE IN MODE-2

The existing institutions (residential schools/ non-residential schools/ hostels) which were found to be having satisfactory infrastructure as per inspection conducted by this Ministry/PMU and conforming to the conditions of the scheme shall be continued. The institutions which do not conform to the new guidelines shall not be given any grant w.e.f. next financial year.

The performance parameters and standards of Mode-2 organisation(s) for continuation of grant-in-aid are/will be as under:

A. Infrastructure

- i. Classrooms @ one room for each class/section.
- ii. Sufficient number of benches and desks (or chairs and tables) for sitting all the students.
- iii. A decent cot and bed @ one for every child.
- iv. Light and fans for every class room and residing rooms.
- v. Residential schools/hostels for girls must have female service staff, wardens and chowkidars, and adequate security provisions.
- vi. Toilet/bathroom @ one for every 10 children. Toilets and bath room should always be kept in clean and hygienic condition.
- vii. Hygienic Kitchen & dining room.
- viii. Nutritious and sufficient food to be given to the student trice a day. Record of the same must be maintained up-to-date.
- ix. Clean and safe drinking water facility to be provided to the students.
- x. Doctor should visit the school and hostel regularly. Record of Doctor's visit must be maintained up-to-date. First-aid-boxes and all emergency medicines, etc. must be kept in both school and hostel for any exigency.
- xi. The students will be given 4 sets of uniforms (including shoes) in a year. The record of the purchase and distribution of uniforms will be maintained up-to-date.
- xii. Games and sports facility, physical education, yoga, etc. and a playground for games and sports must be made available to the students.
- xiii. Installation of CCTVs and linkage of CCTVs with website for live streaming.
- xiv. Aadhaar based attendance system that can be integrated into a central portal.
- xv. The school must have the recognition certificate of the Education Department of the State Government. In case of High Schools, the school must be affiliated to the State/Central Board of Education.

- d. As per provisions of rule 230(8) of GFR, 2017, all interest or other earnings against Grants-in-aid or advances released to any grantee institution should be mandatorily remitted to the Consolidated Fund of India immediately after finalization of accounts.
- e. Applications from NGOs /VOs in the prescribed proforma shall be submitted /forwarded / recommended by the State Government / Administration of the Union Territory on the e- Anudaan portal of this Ministry (<http://www.grants-msje.gov.in>). In case the State/UT recommendation is not received before 30th June, such cases shall be considered on the basis of the physical inspection by the PMU for the purpose of release of grant.
- f. The grants would be released in three installment for each year after receipts of complete proposal and PMU inspection report.
- g. Use of EAT module of the PFMS is mandatory for all the organisations.
- h. The implementing Agency shall, before it receives assistance from Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, execute a bond in the prescribed proforma. The transfer of funds would be done only after acceptance of the Bond by the competent authority in the Ministry. However, in respect of on-going projects, the application for release of funds should accompany with the bond executed on the above lines.

6. EXPENDITURE AND ACCOUNTS (for Mode 2 only)

- i. If actual expenditure on the items for which assistance was sanctioned falls below the level at which the grant was determined, the organization shall be liable to refund unutilized portion of the grant to the Government of India or the unutilized portion of grant shall be adjusted against the grant admissible for the subsequent financial year.
- ii. An aided organization must exercise reasonable economy in the expenditure on the approved items.
- iii. An aided organization shall maintain separate accounts of the grants received under this scheme. These shall always be open to check by an officer deputed by the Government of India or State Government. These shall also be open to check by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India at their discretion.
- iv. An aided organization shall maintain Register of Assets in the proforma prescribed under GFR wherein all assets of permanent value and machinery and equipment having a life of not less than 5 years and costing Rs.10,000 and above (each item) should be entered.
- v. After the closure of the financial year an aided organization will submit audited statement of accounts with utilization certificate for all expenditure incurred.
- vi. An aided organization will also submit to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment a statement in the proforma prescribed under GFR, 2017 showing the equipment /machinery/ furniture purchased, with its price, out of the grant-in-aid received.

Annexure-1

Details of the Bridge Course under Mode-1

The Bridge Course will address the weak point(s) of the student and enhance his/her knowledge and personality to make him a model student. Broadly the course may be asunder:

a. For class9:-

Wrap-up of the courses of class 8 in a nut-shell, English-Speaking, Recitation, Book Reading, Basic Grammar, Essaywriting, Comprehension. Précis, Short Speeches/Debates. Mother tongue-same as English. Third Language/Sanskrit (if any)- Speaking, Recitation, Book Reading, Basic Grammar. Science-Basic Physics, Basic Chemistry, Basic Biology. Mathematics-Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Mensuration, Basic Trigonometry. General Studies- History, Geography, Civics, Basic Constitution and political system, Basic Economics, Computer-Basic computer science ,Basic skills like Word, Excel ,PowerPoint, Internet. Personality Development-Hygiene and cleanliness, Dress sense, Civic sense, Manners and etiquettes, Conversations, Problem solving, Team Building, Development of leader-ship attitude, Development of positive attitude. General Knowledge-Basic General Knowledge, Current Affairs, World Affairs.

b. For class 11: -

Common for all streams:

Wrap-up of the courses of class 10 in a nut-shell, English-Speaking, Recitation, Book Reading, Basic Grammar, Essay writing, Comprehension. Précis, Short Speeches, Debates. Language Course (if any)-same as English. Personality Development-Hygiene and cleanliness, Dress sense, Civic sense, Manners and etiquettes, Conversations, Problem solving, Team Building, Development of leadership attitude, Development of positive attitude. General Knowledge-Basic General Knowledge, Current Affairs, World Affairs.

Science Stream:

Physics- Theory and problems of Force and motion, Light, Electricity, Magnetism, Sound, Basics of Space Science.

Chemistry-Theory and problems of Symbol, valency and formula, Chemical combination, Acids, base and salt, Various Gases, Metals and metallurgy, Radioactivity, Industrial chemistry, Organic chemistry.

Mathematics- Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, 3 dimensional geometry.

Computer Science- Languages, Programs, Networking, computer skills like Words, Excel, PowerPoint, Internet.

Annexure 2

Details of Non-recurring grants, admissible under the Scheme after every five years.

S.N O.	Project Name	Non- recurring Grant	Remarks
1	Secondary Residential School (100 students)	Rs.3,85,000/- for fixed items plus Rs. 900/-per students	Fixed items such as cooking vessels and utensils, furniture for students, bedding material, lab equipment, installation of CCTVs and website etc.
2	Secondary Non-residential School (100 students)	Rs.3,07,500/- Fixed	Fixed items such as cooking vessels and utensils, furniture for students, lab equipment, installation of CCTVs and website etc.
3	Secondary Hostel (100 students)	Rs.2,30,000/- for fixed items plus Rs. 900/-per students	Fixed items such as cooking vessels, utensils, furniture for students, bedding material, installation of CCTVs and website etc.
4	Primary Residential School (100 students)	Rs.2,72,500/- for fixed items plus Rs. 900/-per students	Fixed items such as cooking vessels and utensils, furniture for students, bedding material, installation of CCTVs and website etc.
5	Primary Non-residential School (100 students)	Rs.1,95,000/- Fixed	Fixed items such as cooking vessels and utensils, furniture for students, bedding material, lab equipment, installation of CCTVs and website etc.
6	Hostel for destitute Children (100 students)	Rs.2,30,000/- for fixed items plus Rs. 900/-per students	Fixed items such as cooking vessels and utensils, furniture for students, bedding material, installation of CCTVs and website etc.