

Scheme: “Sikshashree” for ST students studying in Class V to VIII

❖ Preamble

Presently day-scholar students of class V-VIII belonging to Scheduled Tribe category enjoys three grants namely a) Assistance in the form of Book Grant, b) Assistance in the form of Maintenance Grant and c) Other compulsory charges. The amount of such grants is meager and do not serve the intended purpose. Further the method of selection of candidates and that of disbursement is cumbersome and time consuming.

To do away with these predicaments inherent in the scheme and to provide quality assistance to ST students of Classes V to VIII in a smooth, transparent and efficient way a new scheme of providing assistance to the target group is being formulated in the name of “Sikshashree”.

❖ Origin

‘Sikshashree’ scheme of providing assistance to ST day-scholars of Class V-VIII is evolved by merging the existing schemes of Book Grant, Maintenance Grant and Other compulsory charges. It is applicable to the ST Day Scholars of West Bengal reading in class-V-VIII in any Government, Government-aided and all Government recognized schools of West Bengal.

❖ Objective

The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the ST students reading in classes V to VIII to improve their participation in Pre-Matric stages and minimize the incidence of drop-out especially in case of girl students.

❖ Conditions of Eligibility:

- Student should belong to Scheduled Tribe with proper certification as embodied in the body of application form.
- Annual family income of the student should not exceed Rs 2.5 lakhs. A certificate to that effect needs to be provided by the competent authority as embodied in the application form.
- Only day scholars belonging to West Bengal can apply for this scholarship.
- He/she should be a regular full time student reading in a Government School/ Government aided School and Govt. recognized schools in West Bengal.
- The award once made will continue subject to subsequent application of the student up to class VIII and good conduct and attendance and otherwise being eligible.
- He/she should not get any other scholarship or stipend in any form for the same period. In case it is detected that the incumbent has drawn any amount of similar character from any other source this scholarship has to be refunded.
- He/she should be a holder of a bank account in a nationalized bank with core banking facility.
- Scholarship for studying in any class will be available for only one year. If a student has to repeat a class, he/she would not get scholarship for that class for a second year. However if he or she is promoted to next class subsequently he/she will enjoy the benefit provided the incumbent applicant is otherwise eligible.

❖ **The rate of scholarship -**

Sl.	Class	For ST Students per annum
1.	Class – V	Rs 800/-
2.	Class – VI	Rs 800/-
3.	Class – VII	Rs 800/-
4.	Class – VIII	Rs 800/-

❖ **Modalities of the scheme-**

In order to ensure timely payment of scholarship a distinct plan of action needs to be drawn up. A broad outline is attempted below.

1. PO-cum-DWO should hold a two tier meeting one with the Lead Bank officer and another with the BDOs to apprise them of the scheme with an accent on the need to open bank accounts by the applicants. The meeting should be held preferably in presence of District Magistrate.
2. The tasks involved in this scheme are precisely cut out.
 - A) The application forms should be made available to the students through the schools.
 - B) The students should be made to open bank accounts.
 - C) The concerned school and the Nodal Officer should facilitate filling up of the applications by the students.
 - D) Schools shall receive the applications, scrutiny them along with Nodal Officer, compile them in the format (see annexure and in excel format) and submit the compilation sheet to the block office. Individual applications shall be retained by the school till it is requisitioned by the block office. In the meeting as mentioned in para 1, BDOs should be explicitly requested to entrust the Inspectors/ Addl. Inspectors and other Extension officers with these tasks vis-à-vis specific schools in the block. These entrusted officers will be named as “Nodal Officer Sikshashree_____ School.” Consequently these will be the precise responsibility points of the ‘Nodal Officer Sikshashree’.
 - E) The head of the Institution and the ‘Nodal Officer Sikshashree’ shall record a certificate on the body of the compilation sheet - “Certified that due diligence have been exercised in securing the applications and in their compilation. No eligible students have been left out from the ambit of this scheme. The Date of Birth is as per the admission register of the school” and submit the same to the block office. On receipt of the compilation sheet the block shall verify ten percent of the cases as sample and will issue Entitlement card to the students who will endorse the same during their next year’s application.
 - F) After verification of data base by the block office this will be forwarded to P.O-cum-DWO/DWO who will transfer funds through National Electronic Fund Transfer directly to the students account in accordance with the budgetary allotment. This database may be forwarded to the State after the closure of a financial Year.

❖ **Time Frame-**

- 1) The meeting in Para-1 should be completed by 15th of July, 2014.
- 2) Accounts shall be opened by 30th of August, 2014.
- 3) Last date of application 15th September, 2014.
- 4) Applications should be compiled and submitted to Block office within 29th September, 2014.
- 5) Funds should reach incumbent students by 14th November, 2014.

Name of the school-

List of ST Students belonging to class-

Sl.	Name of the student	Male/ Female	Sub- caste	Name of the father/ Mother/ Guardian	Date of Birth	Address	Bank & Branch	Account. No	IFSC Code	MICR code	Income/ Caste/ Resd. certificate issued by

Certified that due diligence have been exercised in securing the applications and in their compilation. No eligible students have been left out from the ambit of this scheme. The DoB are as per the admission register of the school.

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Signature of Head of the Institution with seal and Institutional seal

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Countersigned by Nodal Officer Sikshashree _____ School