

MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF 25% RESERVATION IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS



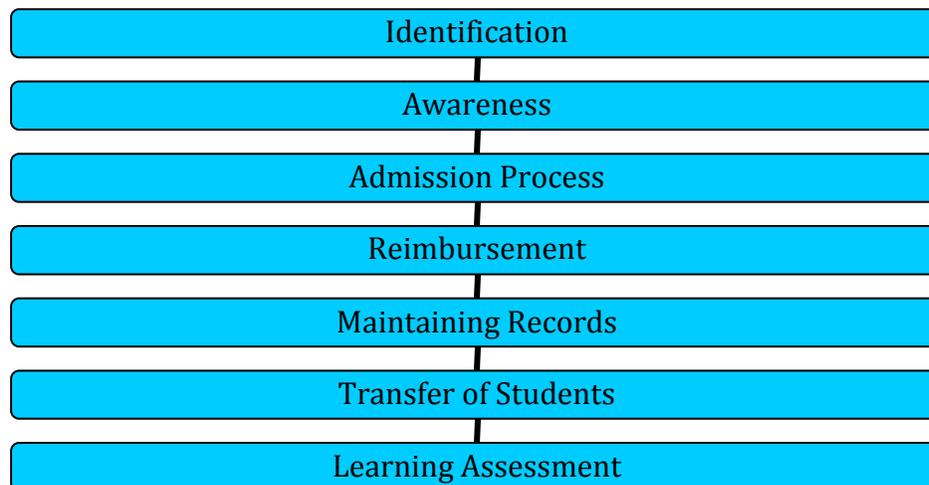
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MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF 25% RESERVATION



Section 12 of the RTE Act makes it compulsory for every private school--aided and unaided--to admit children belonging from weaker and disadvantaged group at the entry level class. Unaided private schools are to admit 25% of the strength of the entry level class from these categories and the State Government will reimburse the schools for the same. Aided schools are to provide free education to children from these categories in proportion to the aid received by it, at the minimum of 25% of the seats.

1. *Identifying 25 %*

- As per Section 12 of the Act, 25% seats at the entry level class are reserved for “**disadvantaged groups and weaker sections**”
- Anyone from disadvantaged groups and weaker sections can apply under this reservation of 25% if their annual family income is less than a stipulated ‘X’ amount
- If an unaided school is already under an obligation to provide free education to a specified number of children under any other law , then that number should be adjusted to 25%

2. *Disadvantaged groups*

- According to the RTE Act disadvantaged groups include Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Disabled
- Caste/Tribe/OBC certificate can be used as a proof to establish whether a person falls under the category of disadvantaged group or not
- Annual Income level should be verified to exclude the creamy layers amongst the disadvantaged except where deemed necessary to include all

3. ***Weaker Sections***

- Option 1: Families below annual income of X qualify for reservation, any government document like income certificate, ration card, job card issued under NREGA, UID card etc can used for verification
- Option 2: Create a list of 'excluded' families from the scheme as opposed to specifying who is included in the scheme (for example, exclude all income tax payers, vehicle owners, businesses with annual turnover of more than X amount, and so on)

4. ***Neighbourhood School***

- The Act defined principle of neighbourhood (1 km for class 1-5 and 3 kms for 6-8) should be used only to establish new schools
- The neighbourhood criterion should not be used for the implementation of the 25% as it is likely to restrict choice. Since poor and disadvantaged neighbourhoods like slums are likely to have lesser and relatively poorer quality of private schools, the neighbourhood restriction will limit access of the disadvantaged residents to only these schools. Use instead school district/zone or whole town and in rural areas panchayat or zilla parisad or district as a neighborhood

5. ***Awareness of 25% reservation***

- Government must post a notification on the right of disadvantaged groups and weaker sections to seek admissions in private schools in local newspapers as well as use the medium of radio
- Each school must announce the number of seats reserved as its obligation under section 12 of the RTE Act
- The information on number of seats must be given to the State/Local Authority by the school
- Local/State authorities must compile and place outside its office and where applicable on its website, the number of seats available for disadvantaged and weaker section in each school within its jurisdiction
- Encourage social mobilization and social auditing to spread awareness on the issue and to promote accountability

6. ***Admission Forms and selection process***

Option 1-Common Admission Process:

- There should be a common admission form at the city/town and block level. The form should be made available online and for free in any school and in

State/Local Authorities like the Directorate of Education, Municipality, Zilla Parishad, Panchayat/PRIs, etc.

- Admission form should be in English as well as local language and must give the option of listing upto 10 schools in the order of preference
- Admission forms should be submitted to State/Local Authorities and the receipt of the same must be acknowledged by assigning a registration number.
- Database should be maintained of all the received application forms by the State/Local authority
- **School Level Lottery:** Selection of students should be done by lottery first at the school level (assuming more applicants than seats in the school). Computerized lottery should be run for each school to select from students who had listed that school as one of the preferences. This lottery should be conducted by the State/Local Authority on the specified date in a public place in front of parents/media
- The list (including waiting list) should be publicized in the State/Local Authority offices as well as in individual schools
- **Student Level Lottery:** There should be a second round of lottery conducted by State/local authority at student level for those who do not get admission in any of their preferred schools. By this lottery each student will be allotted a rank amongst all the schools with vacant seats.
- Applicants should be able to check their status/ranking with remaining schools online as well as get information from State/Local Authorities.
- The final school wise list of the 25% reserved seats should be published by the State/Local authority.

Option 2:

- Where the State/Local Authorities do not have the resources to manage common admission process and conduct centralized lottery, there should be school wise application process and the selection via lottery should be done by schools themselves.
- Admission forms should be in English as well as local language and should be made available by schools for free of cost
- Admission form should be submitted to the schools and the schools should acknowledge the receipt of the same
- The acknowledgment receipt should clearly mention the date of lottery and the same should be informed verbally as well. The date of lottery should also be put on the notice board outside the school premises
- The lottery should be conducted by the school on the decided date and it should be open for applicants as well as general public

7. *Reimbursement*

- Reimbursement should be done on per student basis and the amount be transferred directly to school's bank account
- Per student expenditure should be calculated based on total school education budget (recurring and capital cost, plan and non-plan outlays) under all concerned Ministries/Departments at State Level
- Reimbursement should be done in two parts- X % to be paid on admission and the remaining Y % at the end of the year after receiving attendance and assessment reports
- State Education Departments must maintain the list of students studying in each school and update from time to time whether the child is still studying there and if reimbursement has been done. This list and update on it should be made public.

8. *School Transfers*

- During the academic year, a student can seek transfer to those schools that have not filled their 25% reserved seats. If no such school exists which is convenient to the student, then the student can transfer to government school
- Each year the schools should review if any student in 25% quota has left. That vacancy should be published and applications should be invited first from those seeking transfer to the school from weaker sections and disadvantaged groups.