

## NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY

**The school system is changing from 10+2 to 5+3+3+4.**

Education will be compulsory for children between the age of 3 and 18 years.

**Foundational years for age group of 3-8 years** -The foundational years of a child's education will consist of **3 years of pre-school/Anganwadi education** and **2 years of primary education**, including **Classes 1 and 2**. The focus will be on development of **LANGUAGE SKILLS** and teaching by **PLAY-BASED AND ACTIVITY-BASED CURRICULUM**.

*Foundational Literacy and Numeracy refers to building adequate literacy and numeracy skills during the foundational stage of school education. These are the first 5 years of education up to class 2 when the child is between 3 – 7 years.*

**Preparatory stage for age group of 8-11 years** -The preparatory stage under the National Education Policy will cover school education from **Classes 3-5** with a focus on **EXPERIMENTAL LEARNING**. It will cover the **age group of 8-11** years. The focus would shift to play, discovery and activity-based and interaction classroom learning. The focus till this stage would remain on the development of language and numeracy skills.

*Experimental learning is a direct learning process of learning where students develop skills and knowledge through direct experiences and imbibing and gaining knowledge through a variety of activities As an offset from traditional academic settings, direct learning provides the best for practical knowledge and skills.*

**Middle stage for the age group of 11-14 years** - This will cover school education from **Classes 6-8** and will be for the **age group of 11-14** years. The structure aims to transform the pedagogy to **focus on EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING** in the sciences, mathematics, arts, social sciences and humanities and **not on learning by rote**. Integration of vocational education from Class 6. (Students to participate in a fun project/activity on 'The Languages of India', sometime in Grades 6-8, such as, under the 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat' initiative.)

*Experiential learning is the process of learning through practice and through experience. It is more specifically defined as "LEARNING THROUGH REFLECTION ON DOING". ... By doing tasks and activities and by being involved in actual decision making along with teachers, students can learn concepts in a comprehensive manner resulting in DEEP LEARNING.*

The main **difference between active and experiential learning** is that the former is **learning** by participating (in activities such as reading, writing, and discussing), and the latter is **learning** by doing (actually carrying out tasks and observe and reflect on the results.)

**Secondary stage for 4 years** - This will cover school education from **Classes 9-12 in two phases**. The first phase will be 9-10 and second phase will be 11-12. The changes include a **multidisciplinary study where students would be able to pick and choose any set of subjects from the available structure**. The focus would be on greater **CRITICAL THINKING AND FLEXIBILITY**, allowing children to pick subjects of their interests – even technical and arts. Several foreign languages will also be offered at the secondary level. (*Several foreign languages will also be offered at the secondary level.*)

The overall aim of **Early childhood care and education (ECCE)** will be to attain optimal outcomes in the domains of physical and motor development, cognitive development, socio-emotional-ethical development, cultural/artistic development, and the development of communication and early language, literacy, and numeracy.

\*\*\*ECCE training to be completed by teachers in 50 weeks.

\*\*\*Pupil Teacher ratio – 25: 1 in disadvantaged areas to 30: 1

**MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION** - **The mother tongue or local or regional language** is to be the **medium of instruction in all schools up to Class 5** (preferably till Class 8 and beyond), according to the policy. Under the NEP 2020, Sanskrit will be offered at all levels and foreign languages from the Secondary School Level. However, the policy also says "no language will be imposed on any student".

**New school assessment scheme-** **Instead of exams being held every year**, school students will sit only for three - at Classes 3, 5 and 8. Assessment in other years will shift to a "regular and formative" style that is more "competency-based, promotes learning and development and tests higher-order skills, such as **ANALYSIS, CRITICAL THINKING AND CONCEPTUAL CLARITY**".

The new school assessment scheme will come in place from 2022-2023.

**PARAKH** -Board exams will continue to be held for Classes 10 and 12 but even these will be re-designed with "holistic development" as the aim. Standards for this will be established by a new national assessment centre - PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development).

**SCHOOL GOVERNANCE** - Schools can be organized into complexes or clusters which will be the basic unit of governance and ensure availability of all resources including infrastructure, academic libraries and a strong professional teacher community. (HUBS OF LEARNING pattern)

**TEACHER EDUCATION** - A new and comprehensive National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education, NCFTE 2021, will be formulated by the NCTE in consultation with NCERT. By 2030, the minimum degree qualification for teaching will be a 4-year integrated B.Ed. degree. Stringent action will be taken against substandard stand-alone Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs).

## **10 MAJOR REFORMS IN SCHOOL EDUCATION: HIGHLIGHTS**

### **1. Schooling will start at the age of 3 years**

Earlier, schooling was mandatory for children between the age of 6 and 14 years. However, under the National Education Policy (NEP 2020), education will be compulsory for children between the age of 3 and 18 years.

### **2. 5+3+3+4 curricular and teaching structure**

The new National Education Policy aims to shift from decades-old 10+2 format to a 5+3+3+4 system, keeping in mind a child's development and capabilities. **Click [here](#) to understand the 5+3+3+4 format under NEP 2020.**

### **3. Emphasis on mother tongue as medium of instruction**

The National Education Policy puts emphasis on a child's mother tongue as the medium of instruction. However, The NEP only recommends the mother tongue as a medium of instruction; it has not been made compulsory. The policy states that children learn and grasp non-trivial concepts more quickly in their mother tongue.

**National Education Policy: New 5+3+3+4 structure and system explained**

“Wherever possible, the medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, will be the home language, mother tongue, local language or the regional language. Thereafter, the home or local language shall continue to be taught as a language wherever possible. This will be followed by both public and private schools,” the policy states.

#### **4. Universalisation of Early Childhood Care Education (ECCE)**

Early childhood care and education is more than the preparation for primary school. It aims at the holistic development of a child's social, emotional, cognitive and physical needs in order to build a solid and broad foundation for lifelong learning and well-being. Anganwadis and pre-schools will have teachers and Anganwadi workers trained in the ECCE pedagogy and curriculum. The planning and implementation of ECCE will be carried out jointly by the ministries of education, women and child development (WCD), health and family welfare (HFW), and tribal affairs.

#### **5. No rigid separation between Science, Arts and Commerce streams**

Under the National Education Policy, there will be no stiff separation between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams. Students can select subjects of their liking across streams.

#### **6. Internships and vocational education from Class 6**

The NEP 2020 states that vocational education will start in schools from the 6th grade and will include internships.

#### **7. Focus on attaining foundational literacy and numeracy**

A National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy will be set up by the education ministry. By 2025, states will prepare an implementation plan for attaining universal foundational literacy and numeracy in all primary schools for all students by grade 3.

#### **8. Board exams to have low stakes**

Board exams for Grades 10 and 12 will be “redesigned” and a new National Assessment Centre, Parakh (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development), will be set up as a standard-setting body. The changes in the board structure which seek to make the exams a test of “core competencies” will be implemented from the 2021 academic session.

#### **9. Reduction in curriculum to core concepts**

The policy states that curricular content will be reduced to enhance essential learning and critical thinking and greater focus will be on experiential learning.

## **10. Education of gifted children**

Emphasis will be given on socially and economically disadvantaged groups (SEDGs), which include gender, socio-cultural, and geographical identities and disabilities. This includes setting up of the gender inclusion fund and also special education zones for disadvantaged regions. The policy states that children with disabilities will be able to attend regular school from the foundational stage to higher education, with support of educators with cross-disability training and technology-based tools tailored to suit their needs.

**Some of the biggest highlights of the NEP 2020 for Higher Education Institutions are -**  
**A SINGLE REGULATOR FOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS** - A Higher Education Council of India (HECI) will be set up to regulate higher education; The HECI will not, however, have jurisdiction over legal and medical colleges.

Higher education institutions like the IITs (Indian Institute of Technology) move towards "holistic education" by 2040 with greater inclusion of arts and humanities subjects for students studying science subjects, and vice versa.

**MULTIPLE ENTRY AND EXIT OPTIONS IN DEGREE COURSES**, The NEP 2020 proposes a four-year undergraduate programme with multiple exit options to give students flexibility.

A multi-disciplinary bachelor's degree will be awarded after completing four years of study. Students exiting after two years will get a diploma and those leaving after 12 months will get a certificate for having studied a vocational/professional course.

**COMMON ENTRANCE EXAMS FOR UNIVERSITIES** - Common entrance exams to be held for admission to universities and higher education institutions

**DISCONTINUATION OF MPhil PROGRAMMES.**

*The policy aims at reducing curriculum load of students and allowing them to become more "multi-disciplinary" and "multi-lingual". There will be no rigid separation between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities and between vocational and academic stream,*

The Union Cabinet approved a **new National Education Policy** on July 29, after a 34-year gap. ... It is **only a policy**, not a law; implementation of its proposals depends on further regulations by both States and the Centre as **education** is a concurrent subject.

