

Government of Haryana
Department of School Education
Shiksha Sadan, Sector 5, Panchkula, Haryana

F.No. 03/03-2018 RTE I

Dated 10.12.2018


Office Order

Subject:- Instruction regarding additional subjects/weight of School Bag.

In compliance of Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Madras in its judgment "M Purushothaman Vs Union of India & Others" (W.P. 25680 of 2017), the Ministry of Human Resource Development has instructed to all the States and Union Territories to formulate Guidelines to regulate the teaching of additional subjects and to reduce the weight of school bags in accordance with the Government of India instructions. Therefore all the Schools under Department of Education are hereby directed to comply with the following instructions strictly with immediate effect.

1. Homework shall not be assigned to the students of class I & II.
2. Schools should not prescribe any other subjects except language and Mathematics for class I & II and language, EVS and Mathematics for class III to V students as prescribed by the SCERT and NCERT.
3. Students should not ask to bring additional books; extra materials and the weight of the school bag should not exceed the following limit.

Sr. No.	Class	Weight of school bag
1.	I-II	1.5 Kg
2.	III-V	2-3 Kg
3.	VI & VII	4 Kg
4.	VIII & IX	4.5 Kg
5.	X	5 Kg


Dr. Vandana Disodia
Joint Secretary cum Additional Director
School Education Haryana


Endst. No. Even

Dated 10.12.2018

A copy along with guidelines on the subject cited above is hereby forwarded to the following for kind information and necessary action:-

1. The Chief Secretary to Govt. of Haryana, Chandigarh.
2. The Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Haryana, Finance Department, Chandigarh
3. The Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Haryana, Women & Child Development, Chandigarh
4. The Legal Remembrance & Secretary to Govt. of Haryana, Law, & Legislative Department, Chandigarh
5. The Director General, Secondary Education, Haryana, Panchkula
6. The State Project Director, HSSPP, Panchkula'
7. The Director, Women & Child Development Department, Haryana, Panchkula
8. The Director Elementary Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
9. The Secretary National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Janpath, New Delhi.
10. The Chairperson SCPCR, Haryana, Panchkula

11. The Advocate General, Haryana, Chandigarh.
12. The Registrar, Punjab & Haryana High Court, Chandigarh.
13. All the Deputy Commissioners & Additional Deputy Commissioners in the State.
14. The Secretary, Board of School Education, Haryana, Bhiwani.
15. The Director, SCERT, Haryana, Gurugram.
16. All the District Education Officers, District Elementary Education Officers & District Project Coordinators in the State.
17. All the Block Education Officers in the State.
18. All the Secretary, SMCs in the State.
19. The PS/Chief Minister, Haryana, Chandigarh
20. The PS/Education Minister, Haryana, Chandigarh


Dr. Vandana Disodia
Joint Secretary cum Additional Director
School Education Haryana

Dated- 10.12.2018

File no. 03/03-2018 RTE (1)

**Subject- Judgement dated 29.05.2018 in W.P. No. 25680 of 2018-
M Purushothaman vs. Union of India and others.**

General Guidelines to reduce the load of School Bags:

- 1.1 All the schools following the State Curriculum have to follow the textbooks prescribed by the State Academic Authority i.e., SCERT, Government of Haryana or National Academic Authority i.e., NCERT. The number of textbooks in different classes should not exceed the number prescribed by the SCERT for the corresponding class.
- 1.2 Schools should focus on making the children understand concepts rather than just memorizing the concepts. Freedom should be given to the children to read, comprehend and express for themselves.
- 1.3 Schools should avoid repeated copying from the text books / guide books during and after the school hours. Reading library books and participation in Games, Sports, Art & Culture and other creative, co-curricular activities for holistic development of the children must be encouraged.
- 1.4 Feedback on the assessment and the performance of the children is a must to improve the performance of the students and also the teachers. The use of Guides and Guide type study material should be avoided and children should be made to think imagine and construct their own answers.
- 1.5 Strict adherence of the Academic Calendar in terms of the school timings, examination schedule, nature of assessments, CCE etc.is required.
- 1.6 Games and Sports in the evenings must be encouraged rather than engaging the children again in tuitions and homework only. Recreation and physical activity is a must for a growing child and it is the right of the children.
- 1.7 Focus on the foundational skills of the students i.e., basic competencies of reading, writing and arithmetic should be emphasized which prepares children for self-learning. Every school must ensure these foundational skills among the children before starting the regular class syllabus.
- 1.8 Class-interaction must be encouraged rather than mere presentation of information in the name of syllabus coverage. There should be dialogue and discussion and the children engaged with challenging learning tasks such as projects, experiments, field visits, book reviews, discussion on social and contemporary issues etc.

II. A. Guidelines for Primary Schools.

- 2.1 Three textbooks have been prescribed for Classes I & II i.e., Hindi, English, Mathematics and four textbooks have been prescribed for Classes III to V i.e., Hindi, English, Mathematics and Environmental Studies by the SCERT/NCERT, which should be followed.
- 2.2 There should be one note book of 100 pages for each subject for undertaking Formative Assessment items such as textbook exercises, projects, slip tests etc. This too the children need not bring every day to the school. Two subjects per week i.e., @ 3 days per subject shall be prescribed along with two 100 pages double ruled note books for improving the handwriting.
- 2.3 The schools should provide safe drinking water to avoid children getting drinking water bottles from their houses.
- 2.4 There shall not be any homework for students of Classes I and II. All the work pertaining to exercises given at the end of each unit/lesson in the text books, should be done during the school hours under the supervision of the teachers. Separate periods should be allocated for undertaking exercise part in the class itself after completion of the teaching of the particular unit/lesson. Enough time for this practice should be made available in the school time table itself.
- 2.5 The weight of the School Bag has been calculated as per the above Guidelines and found that by including the textbooks and notebooks and the weight of the empty School Bag for Classes 1st and 2nd , is should not exceed 1.5 Kg and with regard to Classes III to V it should be about 3 to 4 Kg.

Sr. no.	Class	Weigh
1.	I - II	1.5 Kg
2.	III - V	3-4 Kg

B. Upper Primary Sections and Secondary Schools - Classes VI & VII and VIII to X

- 3.1 As per the State curriculum, six Textbooks and workbooks have been prescribed for Classes VI & VII i.e., 3 language (Hindi, English, Sanskrit/Urdu/Punjabi) and one each for Maths, Science and Social Studies. For Classes VIII to X, there are seven Text books and workbooks are prescribed i.e., 3 language and one each for Maths, Physical Science, Biological Science and Social Studies.
- 3.2 There shall be one note book of 150 pages for each subject for under taking Formative Assessment items such as textbook exercises, projects, slip tests, experiments etc. This too the children need not bring every day to the school. There shall be

one note book as rough note book for all the subjects to be brought every day to the school and used for class work.

- 3.3 All the work pertaining to exercises given at the end of the lesson in the text books should be performed during the school hours under the supervision of the teachers. Separate periods should be allocated for undertaking exercise part in the class itself after completion of the teaching of the particular until unless. Enough time for this practice should be made available in the school time table itself. Children should be encouraged to think and try performing these exercises and tasks on their own, with the assistance of the teachers, wherever necessary.
- 3.4 The school should plan for the homework to the Classes VI to X by allocating particular days for the homework for specific subjects. The issue of allotment of homework for various subjects during a week /a month may be discussed and finalized by discussing in the Staff Meetings by the ESHM /Head Master/Head Mistress concerned. For instance for Classes VI to VIII, language subjects can be for the first three days of the week i.e., from Monday to Wednesday and non-language subjects from Thursday to Saturday. Similarly, for the Classes IX and X, the non-language subjects can be from Monday to Wednesday and language subjects can be from Thursday to Saturday.

The weight of the School Bag has been calculated as per the above Guidelines and found that by including the textbooks and notebooks and the weight of the empty School Bag, for Classes VI & VII it should not exceed 4.5 Kg and with regard to Classes VIII & IX, it should not be more than 4.5 to 5 Kg and in the case of Class X, it should not be more than 6 Kg.

Sr. no.	Class	Weigh
1.	VI-VII	4.5 Kg
2.	VIII - IX	4.5 - 5 Kg
3.	X	6 Kg

IV. Every school i.e. Primary, Upper Primary, High and Sen Sec. School shall take the following steps also and inform the students and parents accordingly and also supervise the implementation of these steps. in order to reduce the load of the School Bags:-

- 4.1 Inform the students in advance about the books and notebooks to be brought to the school on a particular day.

- 4.2 Inform the students and parents regarding appropriate kind of School Bags i.e. which have broad straps for symmetrical distribution of weight.
- 4.3 The students should always use both straps for carrying the School Bag and should not sling the Bag over one shoulder.
- 4.4 The students should keep the Bag down while waiting for the school conveyance.
- 4.5 The schools must ensure that students carry books only according to the timetable.
- 4.6 School Heads should counsel the parents and teachers about the health issues arising out of the children carrying heavy School Bags to school.
- 4.7 Schools should not prescribe additional and supplementary textbooks that are voluminous, costly and designed in a pedagogically unsound manner other than by SCERT/NCERT.
- 4.8 Students should be encouraged to repack their bags on daily basis and avoid carrying unnecessary articles, textbooks and workbooks that are not needed.
- 4.9 The schools must frequently check the School Bags to ensure that the students are not carrying heavy Bags with unnecessary material.

