

CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION
2, COMMUNITY CENTRE, PREET VIHAR, DELHI – 110092

NO.D(A)/PA/CCE/2004

15th September, 2004

Circular No: 31/2004

To

All the Heads of Institutions affiliated to CBSE

Subject : Continuous and comprehensive evaluation in Primary Classes – Reg

Dear Principal,

i) Circular No.6
dt.8.2.2003

ii) Circular
No.5/04
dt.5.2.04

As you are well aware, the Board has been time and again drawing the attention of the school community through the circulars mentioned in the margin to the urgency of providing a stress free education to the students in the primary sections of school. While the causes that contribute to the stress are many, some of them are quite tangible and it is possible to take such measures that would minimize the stress, if not totally eliminate the same.

One of the major contributors to the stress is the size of the school bag. This has been brought to the attention of the entire country by the Yashpal Committee Report. Taking cognizance of the increasing number of text books prescribed by certain institutions for the students of the I and II classes in particular, the Board has always felt that the number of books and note books prescribed to the classes I and II should be as minimal as possible. Even these books and notebooks have to be left in the school classrooms so that the students do not have to carry these books home. The schools are advised to make such arrangements in the school campus that there is adequate provision for the school bags of these students being housed safely for their daily use.

In order that the psychological load of the text books is not carried home and that the students have enough time to develop other basic life skills and are enabled to develop adequate emotional rapport with the parents, the Board has also recommended that no homework is given to them. It is felt that at this age, the learning is as informal and joyous as possible so that there is time and scope for nourishing the mental health of the students. The fear that the students will not learn effectively unless they are given formal learning inputs is unfounded. The parents should be helped by the schools to understand the changing paradigm in the larger interest of their children.

Arguments are being advanced about the elimination of the Pass - Fail system at the primary classes. The Board is fully convinced that this would go a long way in eliminating the fear from the minds of the younger ones. Sometimes failing a child for the inadequate performance in one subject or the other appears to be against the very basics of the idea that every learner has certain latent talents and it is the responsibility of the education system to identify and nurture such talents.

So in brief the following action needs to be taken at the school level:-

1. The students need not carry the school bags from their home and the school bag be kept in the Desk at the school.

P.T.O.

2. No home work up to class - II.
3. Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation with no Pass-Fail criteria up to class - V. The students achievement record need to be formulated accordingly and the Board has already forwarded two formats for the same vide circular no. 25/04 dated 12.06.2004- one for the classes I and II and another for classes III to V. So up to class-II, two year profile of the students be maintained and for students in class III to V three year profile of the students be maintained.

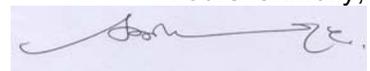
In order to facilitate the schools to focus on the holistic development of the students, from class I to V the Board has brought out the guidelines to schools in the form of "Alternatives to Homework." This priced edition of the book (Rs.75/-) is being sent as a complimentary copy to all the affiliated schools. Additional copies, if any, required can be purchased by the schools from the book stores of the CBSE at its Headquarters or the Regional offices. As could be seen from this book, the Board has provided a series of activities which would help the students to develop confidence and competence. The Life skills and core values have to be developed among the students and in this arduous task, the role and the responsibility of the parents and the family cannot be marginalized. The schools have to ensure the cooperation of parents in discharging this task of human resource development.

The Board has also advised the schools to reflect the profile of the students in the prescribed format of the Achievement record. The profile of the students may be reflected in a five point scale as shown in the format. The absolute marks be translated into grade in academic assessment. A guideline in this regard for changing absolute marks to grading is being circulated shortly. The above instructions have to be followed by all the schools as these are in total conformity with the broadly defined educational policies of the Government of India.

These decisions of the Board are to be viewed not in isolation, but as a part of a series of initiatives taken by the Board in the continuum of the educational reforms. The Board would appreciate, if the schools would carry ahead these initiatives up to the middle school level (for classes VI to VIII). The Board would also shortly come with formats of Achievement Records for the classes VI to VIII based on the concept of continuous and comprehensive evaluation and on a seven point scale.

The cooperation of the schools in early and effective implementation of these instructions in their respective schools would help in achieving the cherished goals of making our younger generation thoughtful, imaginative, creative and productive.

Yours faithfully,



(G.BALASUBRAMANIAN)
DIRECTOR (ACADEMIC)

