

**O/o Director Public Instructions (S.E.) Punjab
PSEB Complex, E-Block, 4th Floor, Phase-8, SAS Nagar**

To

1. All the District Education Officers (SE)/ (EE)
in the State of Punjab.
2. Principles/ Heads/ Managers
of All the Private Unaided schools
in the State of Punjab.
3. Principles/ Heads/ Managers
of All the Government- aided schools
in the State of Punjab.

R.T.E.
20/10/2020

Memo No. — 2020248454
Dated, SAS Nagar: 21/10/2020

Subject:- Display of Fire and Building safety as well as Board affiliation certificates issued by the appropriate authorities in respect of all Government run school, privately managed government aided school and other private schools affiliated with PSEB, CBSE or any other recognized Board.

Kindly refer to the subject cited above.

2.0 At the time of hearing of Appeal Case No. 472 of 2020 titled as Smt. Kamaldeep Kaur Vs. Public Information Officer, the Punjab State Information Commission passed the following operative order on 28.7.2020:-

"During the course of the hearing, I am of the view that a larger issue has emerged in front of this bench i.e. regarding the safety of children and staff in schools all over Punjab. That there lies a humongous public interest in taking a broader view of the issue of safety of children and staff in schools than merely confining it to one school about which information is sought.

It is evident from the ongoing hearings of this case that some schools- whether they are private, government-aided or government-operated may not be meeting and complying with the prescribed standards of building and fire safety norms set by the

that they provide as human safety is above everything else. Moreover, every parent has the right to know that the school where his or her ward is going or getting admitted to is safe and has a valid affiliation with a school board to run its day-to-day business. Given the above, it is clear that there is an urgent need to bring about transparency in this matter, as these certificates/materials should be a matter of suo-motto declaration rather than being confined in record rooms, only to be sought under the RTI Act.

Since certificates such as fire and building safety, as well as board affiliation certificates issued by the appropriate authorities clearly come under information as defined in section 2(f) of the Act, this bench under the powers vested under section 19(8) of the RTI Act hereby directs that valid certificates of fire and building safety and board affiliations issued by the appropriate authorities be declared suo-motto of the RTI Act. The certificates should be latest legible and valid.

There is no exception, and this order is applicable to all Punjab schools whether government, government-aided or private. They all are required to display fire and building safety certificates as well as board affiliation certificates. In case a school has no website it will be mandatory to display this information prominently on the notice board and in case of schools with websites, this information will be displayed on both the forums. If a school is not compliant with any one of these, it will still proactively disclose the status quo of all the three points. Schools will not evade sharing the completed status quo on all the three points - fire and building safety certificates and board affiliation certificates.

All District Education Officers are directed to ensure the compliance of this order with immediate effect, failing which they will be held responsible for not implementing this order.

non compliant in the other two. Each compliance or non-compliance must be clearly stated on the website". (Emphasis added).

3.0 In view of the aforesaid directions of the Hon'ble Punjab State Information Commission, all the schools in the State of Punjab are hereby directed:-

3.1 To display fire and building safety certification as well as board affiliation certificates on their respective websites.

3.2 In case a school has no website it will be mandatory to display this information prominently on the notice board of the school. In case of the schools with websites, this information shall be displayed both on their websites as well as on their notice boards.

3.3 It is further directed that even if a school is not compliant with any of the three requirements as mentioned above, it will still proactively disclose the status of all the three points and shall not evade sharing the complete status. Each compliance or non-compliance shall be clearly stated on the website.

4.0 All the District Education Officers are directed to get the aforesaid directions implemented effectively in all government, government aided and private affiliated schools, failing which they will be held responsible for not implementing this order.

ਦਿੱਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਨਿਰਦੇਸ਼ (ਸ.ਪ.ਸ) ਪੰਜਾਬ
Director of Public Instructions (SE) Punjab

ਫਾਈਲ ਨੰ:- 2020251239

ਮਿਤੀ 09.10.2020

ਉੱਤਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਸਕੂਲਾਂ ਨੂੰ Private ਸਕੂਲਾਂ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਨਿੱਜੀ
ਸਕੂਲਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਭੇਜਿਆ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ ਅਤੇ BPEOS ਸਕੂਲਾਂ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ
ਅਨੁਮਾਪਿਤ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ।

ਸ਼ੁੱਧ 08/10/2020
ਨਿਰਦੇਸ਼ (ਸ.ਪ.ਸ)
ਪੰਜਾਬ