

No. EDN(SE)-H(17)F(10)1/2025-26-Misc.
Directorate of School Education,
Himachal Pradesh.

Directorate of School Education

Dated Shimla-171001

May, 2026

22 MAY 2026

To

Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-171001

All the Deputy Directors of School (Elem./Sec.),
Himachal Pradesh.

All the Principal of Sr. Sec. Schools,
Himachal Pradesh.

Subject: Ensuring Completion of 240 Academic Days and Minimizing Non-Academic Engagements.

It has been observed that the prescribed schedule of 240 academic days is generally not completed effectively because teachers and students remain engaged in various activities and functions, both within and outside the school premises. As a result, while the academic environment of schools gets disturbed, teaching-learning activities are also adversely affected.

Therefore, in view of the following, all Deputy Directors and Principals are hereby directed to ensure that teachers, and especially students, are not deputed or sent for any activity outside the school without the prior consent of the Directorate:-

1. **Academic Activities Must Remain the Highest Priority:-** The primary mandate of schools is to provide quality education and ensure uninterrupted teaching-learning processes. Deployment of students for non-academic events adversely affects classroom teaching, learning continuity and academic outcomes. Although the state of Himachal Pradesh has done extremely well in PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvskshan-2024 and Performance Grading Index, department remains committed and determined to place our State among the top three states in the field of Education and to sustain that position consistently. This can be achieved only if education remains our highest priority.

2. **75% attendance mandatory for students to appear in Annual Examination:** - As per the provisions contained in **Clause 2.19 of the HP Education Code** and various guide lines issued by the Department from time to

time 75% attendance is mandatory for the student to appear in the Annual examination. It is henceforth made clear that absence from school to attend any non academic, unnecessary function or celebration without the prior consent or information of the Directorate would make that particular day counted as absence of the student. **Safety and Security of Students:** - Ensuring the safety, security and well-being of students outside the school premises is extremely challenging. Any untoward incident, accident, health emergency or law-and-order issue during such events may result in serious liability and accountability for the school administration as well as the Department.

3. **Adverse Impact on Learning Outcomes and Board Results:-** At a time when improving learning levels and examination results is a key priority, diversion of students towards non-academic engagements undermines the efforts being made to strengthen educational standards and academic performance. Reports of school inspections reflect that there is still a lot of room for the improvement of learning outcomes of students for which it is essential for students and teachers both to remain present in the institute for the maximum possible duration without wasting the academic day in any random celebration.

4. **Disruption of Teaching-Learning Process:-** Participation of students in non-academic programmes during school hours causes avoidable disruption of regular classes, syllabus completion and examination preparation, particularly for board classes and foundational learning stages.

5. **Protection of Child Rights and Dignity:-** Students should not be used for enhancing the crowd, ceremonial welcome, public receptions or any activity unrelated to their educational development. Such practices are inconsistent with the child-centric approach envisaged under modern educational and child protection principles.

6. **Health and Environmental Concerns:-** Exposure of students to extreme weather conditions, overcrowded venues and prolonged outdoor engagements may adversely affect their health and physical well-being.

7. **Parental Trust and Departmental Responsibility:-** Parents send their children to schools with the expectation of safe and meaningful education. Engagement of students in non-academic functions may invite justified concerns.

from parents and may expose the Department to criticism and accountability issues in the event of any mishap.

8. Compliance with Child Protection and Educational Norms:-Schools and educational authorities are duty-bound to ensure a safe, secure and academically conducive environment for students. Restricting participation in non-academic public events is consistent with child protection norms and the spirit of the Right to Education framework.

9. Administrative and Disciplinary Difficulties:- Maintaining effective supervision, discipline and accountability of students outside the school campus becomes difficult, thereby increasing administrative risks and operational challenges.

10. Student Participation Should Be Restricted to Educationally Relevant Activities Only:- Student participation outside school should be limited strictly to activities having direct educational, cultural, sports, scientific or skill-development value and only after proper approval and safety arrangements.

11. Avoidance of Institutional Misuse:- Educational institutions and students should not be perceived as instruments for enhancing crowds, publicity or protocol arrangements in functions unrelated to academic objectives, as such practices compromise the dignity and neutrality of educational institutions.

12. Need for Uniform Policy and Accountability:-In the absence of a strict policy, schools may face undue pressure for participation in various local functions, leading to inconsistency, avoidable administrative burden and potential allegations of discrimination or preferential treatment.

Further, unnecessary engagements and activities within the school premises should also be avoided, except those conducted with the approval and information of the Directorate. Celebration of various International and National Days such as World Environment Day, Earth day etc. should also be restricted to morning assembly or bag free days only instead of stretching the celebration of functions for the whole/ half day. Instruction issued in this regard, vide letter No. EDN-HE(21)A(3)06/2024-V-L, dated 22-05-2024, issued by the Department of Higher Education (copy enclosed for ready reference) be adhered to strictly.

Hence, for academic excellence of students and for ensuring that the State sustains and improves in ranking during National Surveys like PARAKH, PGI and ASER, quality education and effective teaching learning has to be our topmost priority. Every possible effort must be made to maintain a proper academic atmosphere so that students' studies are conducted in smooth and meaningful manner.

Any deviation from these directions would be viewed seriously and strict action would be taken against the erring Officer/ official.

Directorate of School Education
22 MAY 2026
Himachal Pradesh Shimla-171001

W
DIRECTOR

Endst. No. even, dated Shimla-171001 May, 2026.

Copy for information to:-

1. The Secretary (Education) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-171001.
2. Guard file

W
DIRECTOR

Endst. No. EDN-KGR G-7 (Misc) 2025/
Office of the Deputy Director of School Education (Secondary)
Kangra at Dharamshala.
E mail Address ddhekangra3@gmail.com
Dated Dharamshala - 176215
Copy to:-

29-05-2026

Deputy Director of
School Education (Sec)
30 MAY 2026
Dispatch No. 2657-58
Kangra at Dharamshala

01. The Director of School Education H.P. Shimla-1 for information please.
02. All the Principals /Headmasters Govt. Sr. Sec. Schools/ Govt, High Schools of District Kangra for strict compliance
03. Guard File.

Dy. Director of School Education (Sec.)
Kangra at Dharamshala