



# GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

## Abstract

General Education - Implementation of RTE Act - structural changes in elementary education, pupil teacher ratio, definition of age group for elementary education and eligibility criteria for free education in unaided and specified category schools - Orders issued.

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### GENERAL EDUCATION (J) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms) No.154/2013/G.Edn Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 3.5.2013

Read:- 1.G.O.(P)100/11/G.Edn Dated, 30.4.2011

2.Minutes of the meeting by Chief Secretary held on 12.2.2013 and 6.3.2013.

### ORDER

As per the G.O.read as 1st paper above, Government have framed Right of Children to free and Compulsory Education Rules 2011 in accordance with the RTE Act 2009. The State Government have to strictly adhere to norms and conditions stipulated in the RTE Act and this has to be ensured within three years from the date of commencement of the Act.

Since the implementation of the RTE Act should be in consistent with the circumstances prevailing in Kerala Education Sector, Government have examined the various aspects involved in implementation of RTE Act in our state and are pleased to order the following. These provisions of RTE Act will come into effect from academic year 2013 -14.

#### **1. Age of the child**

As per RTE Act, free and compulsory education should be made available to children in the age group of 6-14 years, corresponding to classes I -VIII. The age of admission to class I in Kerala is 5 and by the age of 13, students are generally out of class VIII. If the state were to provide free education upto the age of 14, then students in the secondary education will also be covered which is beyond the scope of RTE Act 2009. Hence the State hereby defines the child as one between the age of 5-14 years studying in Class I to Class VIII for getting free and compulsory education as stipulated in the RTE Act 2009.

## **2. Declaring Standard I to VIII as Elementary cycle**

The Act stipulated that the State should declare the elementary cycle from Standard I to VIII. Within this cycle, the first stage (Lower Primary) should be from Standard I to V and second stage (Upper Primary) from Standard VI to VIII. However, the elementary cycle in the state is from Standard I to VII. A mere mechanical change would result in large scale fund requirement for construction of class rooms and large scale redeployment of teachers. Hence Elementary Education Cycle is hereafter declared as one from class I to VIII wherein, class V and class VIII will function in the existing premises in the Upper Primary and High schools respectively. Those Upper Primary schools with class V may be redesignated as Lower and Upper Primary schools and those High schools with class VIII may be redesignated as Upper Primary and High schools under the RTE Act. There shall be no creation of any additional divisions or posts in these schools.

DPI will immediately identify such schools and change the name of those schools and immediately inform the school authorities to effect the change.

## **3. Eligibility for Free Education in unaided and specified category schools.**

As provided in the RTE Act, free education will be provided for all the students in the Government and aided schools and also for students belonging to the weaker and disadvantaged group studying in specified category and unaided schools restricting it to 25% of the total students admitted to standard I. The expenditure incurred by the specified and unaided schools will be calculated and reimbursed as stipulated in the RTE Act. The students joining in the specified and unaided schools will be eligible for such concession from the Government only if there are no Government or aided schools within walking distance. ie, 1 km for LP and 3 km for UP Schools.

## **4. Revision of Pupil- Teacher Ratio (PTR)**

As per the RTE Act, the Pupil- Teacher Ratio (PTR) should be revised as 30:1 for LP schools (classes I to V) and 35:1 for U.P school (classes VI to VIII). At present, in Kerala, the existing PTR is as per the divisions in the school. The RTE Act does not envisage a PTR based on the number of divisions in a school. The PTR is therefore revised as 30:1 for the LP schools and 35:1 for the UP schools taking into consideration the total strength of students in a school and not on the basis of divisions. However the existing system of sanctioning class divisions will continue but an additional post will be sanctioned only based on

the schoolwise PTR . Wherever the additional teachers are found necessary based on schoolwise PTR, the existing teachers bank will be used.

DPI will assess the PTR school wise and take necessary action to ensure 30:1 for LP and 35:1 for UP schools from the Academic Year 2013-14.

Necessary amendments in KER to this effect will be made separately

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

**Dr.K.ELLANGOVA**

Secretary to Government

To

The Director of Public Instruction, Thiruvananthapuram.

All Deputy Directors of Education, All District Education Officers, All Assistant Education Officers

The Accountant General (A&E/Audit), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.

The State Project Director, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Director, IT @ School, Thiruvananthapuram.

General Administration (SC) Department. (Vide Item No: -----)

The Finance Department (Vide U.O(F) No:57094/Edn.A1/12/Fin dated 4.7.2012)1

The Director, Information and Public Relations Department, Thiruvananthapuram.

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Section Officer

Copy to: PS to Minister (General Education),

PA to Secretary (General Education)

All Officers & Sections in General Education Department