

CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION  
DELHI

E.O.(H&L)/A/06/

Circular No. 07/ 2006

May 4, 2006

All Heads of Institutions  
Affiliated to the CBSE

*SUBJECT: Reducing the Bag Load on Children*

Dear Principal,

As you are aware the CBSE has been taking several initiatives to make the learning process joyful to the child. The steps initiated by the Board include introduction of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation upto class VIII, establishment of class libraries, emphasis on soft subjects like music, dance and fine arts, strengthening of school-based internal assessment, implementing alternatives to homework for classes III to V and making the learning of mathematics interesting through the concept of Mathematics Laboratories in schools. The Board has also instructed schools to restrict the number of textbooks prescribed for students especially at the primary level. The Board has strived to spread awareness about the importance of reducing the bag and curriculum load on children.

The Board often receives reports regarding the pressure exercised in several schools on children and their parents to buy an excessive number of textbooks. The committee under the chairmanship of Professor Yashpal had also made several recommendations to reduce the curricular burden and stress on children in its report entitled 'Learning Without Burden'. The National Curriculum Framework, 2005 has called for several curricular and systemic reforms to make children's life at school enjoyable. One of these reforms pertains to reduction in the number of textbooks for different classes.

In spite of all these initiatives, it is unfortunate that several schools are exerting pressure on children and their parents to buy an excessive number of textbooks. This is a matter of grave concern and the CBSE would like to reiterate its stand in unequivocal terms that prescribing of too many textbooks and coercing parents and children to buy them is an unhealthy and unethical practice that is educationally unsound. Hence all the affiliated schools are instructed to ensure that the number of textbooks they prescribe from class I to VIII does not exceed the number indicated in the list given below:

(In the first phase new textbooks prepared by NCERT on the basis of the National Curriculum Framework - 2005 have been introduced in classes I, III and VI, IX and XI during the current academic year, i.e. 2006-07. For other classes the old pattern will continue for this academic year).

**Number of Books prescribed for different classes**

<u>New Pattern</u>			<u>Old Pattern</u>		
Class	No. of Textbooks	Subjects	Class	No. of Textbooks	Subjects
I	3	Hindi, English, Mathematics	II	5	Hindi, Work Book (Hindi), English, Work Book (English), Mathematics
III	4	Hindi, English, Mathematics, Environmental Science	IV	6	Hindi, Work Book (Hindi), English, Work Book (English), Mathematics, Environmental Studies
VI	10	Hindi, Hindi Supplementary, English, English	V	6	Hindi, Work Book (Hindi), English, Work Book (English),

		Supplementary, Sanskrit, Mathematics, Science, Social Sciences (History, Socio-Political Life, Geography - 3 books)			Mathematics, Environmental Studies
			VII	11	Hindi, Hindi Supplementary, Hindi Work Book, English, Supplementary Reader for English, Work Book for English, Sanskrit, Mathematics, Social Science Part-I, Social Science Part-II, Science and Technology
			VIII	11	Hindi, Hindi Supplementary, Hindi Work Book, English, Supplementary Reader for English, Work Book for English, Sanskrit, Mathematics, Social Science Part-I, Social Science Part-II, Science and Technology

The instructions contained in this circular may scrupulously be adhered to by all the affiliated schools.

Yours sincerely,

Ashok Ganguly,  
Chairman

**Copy to:-**

1. The Director, NCERT, Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi in response to his letter No. PS(D)/6-2/2006 dated 25.4.06
2. The Commissioner, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, 18, Institutional Area, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, New Delhi
3. The Commissioner, Navodya Vidyalaya Samiti, A-28, Kailash Colony, New Delhi
4. The Director of Education, Directorate of Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Old Secretariat, Delhi
5. The Director of Education, Govt. of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Port Blair
6. The Director of School Education, Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar
7. The Director of Education, Govt. of Sikkim, Gangtok, Sikkim
8. The Director of Public Instructions (Schools), Union Territory Secretariat, Sector-9, Chandigarh
9. All Regional Officers, CBSE
10. All Assistant Commissioners, Regional Offices, KVS

Chairman