

Bill No. 73 of 2025

THE RIGHT OF CHILDREN TO FREE AND COMPULSORY
EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

By

SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT, M.P.

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BILL

further to amend the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Act, 2025.

Short title and
commencement.

5 (2) It shall come into force on such date, as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

35 of 2009.

2. In section 2 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), after clause (b), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

Amendment of
section 2.

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“(ba) “Central Board for Secondary Education” means a National-level board of education in India for public and private schools, controlled and managed by the Government of India to oversee and regulate education which is responsible for setting

educational standards, uniform curriculum development, teacher training, assessment methods, and ensuring the overall quality of primary education in the country to provide a uniform and high-quality education system.”.

Insertion of new section 8A.

3. After section 8 of the principal Act, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:—

Quality Assurance and Monitoring of schools imparting Primary Education.

“8A. (1) The appropriate Government shall establish mechanisms for quality assurance and continuous monitoring of schools imparting elementary education to ensure effective implementation of a uniform curriculum as prescribed by the Central Board of Secondary Education.

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(2) The appropriate Government shall conduct periodic assessment to monitor the academic progress of students and the effectiveness of the uniform curriculum with the results of these assessments to be made publicly available in such manner as may be prescribed.”

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Insertion of new sections 29A, 29B, 29C, 29D and 29E.

4. After section 29 of the principal Act, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:—

CBSE to act as Governing body for primary education.

“29A. The Central Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, make Central Board of Secondary Education the governing body to regulate the curriculum for elementary education across the country.”.

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Role of CBSE in designing uniform curriculum for primary education.

29B. With respect to elementary education, the Central Board of Secondary Education shall,—

(i) prescribe a uniform syllabus for elementary education, in consultation with State Governments and educational experts, which shall be applicable to all primary education schools in the country;

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(ii) ensure that a uniform syllabus is comprehensive, age-appropriate and designed to provide a holistic education to students, ensuring the development of knowledge, skills and values;

(iii) ensure that the curriculum also inculcates the regional and linguistic diversity; and

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(iv) ensure that schools abide by the curriculum designed by it for primary education across the country.

Implementation of uniformity in education by Recognised schools.

29C. (1) Every recognized school imparting elementary education shall be required to implement the prescribed uniform curriculum recommended by the Central Board of Secondary Education within one year from the date of commencement of this Act.

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(2) The appropriate Government shall provide the necessary support and resources to facilitate the effective implementation of the uniform curriculum;

Fund.

“29D. The appropriate Government shall provide sufficient funds to meet the administrative expenditure incurred for following the uniform curriculum of Central Board of Secondary Education.”.

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Penalties for Non-compliance.

“29E. (1) An elementary education school which fails to implement the prescribed uniform curriculum of Central Board of Secondary Education shall be liable for penalties including suspension or cancellation of recognition.

(2) The penalties under sub-section (1) shall be determined by the appropriate government and shall be commensurate with the level of non-compliance.”.

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STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The current state of elementary education in India exhibits a notable lack of uniformity in the curriculum, particularly within the various state and educational boards. In order to bridge the gap, a uniform curriculum for primary education needs to be set up for an equal foundation for the children. In the constitution, article 21A which enshrines the Right to Education, should be interpreted in a manner that aligns with Article 14, Article 15, and the Preamble of the Constitution. This interpretation calls for the elimination of any form of discrimination in the quality of education across all regions of India.

To realize the full scope of a child's right, it is essential that the concept extends beyond mere free and compulsory education. It must encompass the establishment of a standardized education system, with no discrimination based on a child's social, economic, religious, or cultural background. Recently, a PIL on 'One Nation, One Board' was also filed in the High Court which demanded the implementation of uniform school and education boards across the country thereby showcasing the need of forming a uniform curriculum and ensuring the fundamental right of education to every child.

Notably, despite the Right To Education Act 2009 ensuring free and compulsory education for children in the 6-14 age group, students in state-funded public schools, particularly in state-funded minority schools, do not appear to be on an equal footing with their peers in Central Board of Secondary Education, Indian Certificate of Secondary Education or State Board affiliated government and private schools. Therefore, a value-based uniform education system, complete with a common syllabus and curriculum, has become an imperative need of the hour.

A uniform education system with a common syllabus and curriculum at the primary level will offer several advantages. First, it will ensure equal opportunities for all students across India, in accordance with the principles articulated in Articles 14-16 of the Constitution. Such a system will promote fraternity, unity, and national integration among students from different educational boards. Secondly, It will mitigate linguistic and regional divisions and eliminate disparities related to economic backgrounds, creating a level playing field for all students in pursuit of their aspirations.

Hence, this amendment to Right to Education 2009 proposes to establish CBSE as the sole governing education board which will be responsible for bringing uniformity in the curriculum for primary education. CBSE will also be responsible for keeping in check the quality of the syllabus as well as monitoring and assessment of various stakeholders involved in the process.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
March 18, 2025

ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill *vide* proposed section 8A stipulates that the appropriate Government shall establish mechanism for quality assurance and continuous monitoring of schools for effective primary education. Clause 4, *vide* proposed section 29C provides for necessary support and resources to be given by the appropriate Government for effective implementation of the uniform curriculum. Further proposed section 29D provides for funds to be given by the appropriate Government to meet the administrative expenditure incurred for uniform curriculum. The Bill, therefore, if enacted, would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that a recurring expenditure of about rupees fifty crore per annum would be involved from the Consolidated Fund of India.

A non-recurring expenditure of about rupees fifty crore is also likely to be involved.

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further to amend the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.

(Shri Arvind Ganpat Sawant, M.P.)