

Bill No. LXXIV of 2024

**THE RIGHT OF CHILDREN TO FREE AND COMPULSORY
EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024**

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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-fifth 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, 2024.

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. After Chapter II of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), the following new Chapter shall be inserted, namely: —

Insertion of
new Chapter IIA.

CHAPTER II-A

RIGHT TO PLAY

Right of child to play.

5A. (1) Every child of the age of six to fourteen years, including a child referred to in clause (d) or clause (e) of section 2, shall have the right to play and engage in age-appropriate physical activities within the school premises or in the playground designated for the purpose by the appropriate Government. 5

(2) Every school shall have a playground with an extent of not less than one hundred square metres for the purposes as specified in sub-section (1).

(3) In case of a school not having a playground as required under sub-section (2), the appropriate Government shall designate a playground accessible to the children of such a school, within a radius of 5 kms. from the premises of such school.” 10

Amendment of section 8.

3. After sub-clause (d) of Section 8 of the principal Act, the following new sub-clause shall be inserted, namely: — 15

“(da) ensure designation of a playground, as specified under sub-section (3) of section 5A, for such schools not having a playground with the stipulated extent within its premises.”

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Playing is an integral part of a child's life. Playing improves motor, cognitive, social and emotional skills of children. Playing has major role to play in shaping a child's mental health. Right to play is an internationally recognized right of a child. Right to play is enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. UNICEF has started commemorating June 11 as the first-ever International Day of Play (IDOP), following the adoption of a UN resolution for a day centred around play. As such, it is imperative to recognize the above right as a statutory right in India.

The Bill proposes to insert a new Chapter in the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 to recognize the Right of a Child to Play and for the provision of playgrounds in all schools or in designated spaces near to such schools, which do not have playgrounds to ensure that this right is upheld.

The Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives.

A.A. RAHIM

RAJYA SABHA

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BILL

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

(Shri A.A. Rahim, M.P.)