

Government of Maharashtra
School Education Department
Regarding determining the minimum age of children for school admission

Government Resolution No.: **RTE-2024/Pr. Kr. 139 (E-1446124)/SD-1**
Madam Cama Road, Hutatma Rajguru Chowk,
Mantralaya, Mumbai – 400 032.

Date: 15 October 2026

References:

1. Letter of the Director of Education (Primary), Directorate of Primary Education, Pune, No. PraDiSa/D-301/2024/7588, dated 04.12.2024.
2. Letter of the Joint Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India, No. D.O. No. 22-7/2021-EE.19/IS.13, dated 15.02.2024.
3. Government Resolution, School Education and Sports Department, No. RTE 2018/Pr. Kr. 180/SD-1, dated 18.09.2020.
4. Government Resolution, School Education and Sports Department, No. RTE 9814/Pr. Kr. 119/SD-1, dated 25.07.2019.
5. Government Resolution, School Education and Sports Department, No. Misc. 9814/Pr. Kr. 160/SD-1, dated 25.01.2017.
6. Government Corrigendum, School Education and Sports Department, No. Misc. 9814/Pr. Kr. 160/SD-1, dated 23.01.2015.
7. Government Resolution, School Education and Sports Department, No. Misc. 9814/Pr. Kr. 160/SD-1, dated 21.01.2015.
8. Government Resolution, School Education and Sports Department, No. PRE-2010/(215)/PraShi-1, dated 11.06.2010. 202610151714471049

Introduction:

Under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, the procedure regarding admission of children to schools was determined through the Government Resolution dated 11.06.2010. The said Government Resolution contains, among other provisions relating to admission, a provision regarding the age of a child for school admission. Under that provision, the age limit for admission to Class 1 was fixed at 6 years. However, the order stated that children who had completed 5 years would also be eligible for admission to Class 1.

There are various types of schools in the State, including schools implementing the State Board curriculum, CBSE, ICSE and IB schools. At the time of admission, different age limits and different reference dates were being considered for Class 1 in these different types of schools. Further, there was no specific age requirement for admission to the pre-primary classes during the year.

Taking these matters into consideration, the minimum age for children for school admission has been determined through the Government Resolution referred to herein, with a view to bringing flexibility in the minimum age of children. 202610151714471049

2.

Because of the above provisions, at the beginning of the academic year, children aged 2.5 years were admitted to Play Group/Nursery (the third class before Class 1), and children aged 5.5 years were admitted to Class 1.

The Central Government has now informed that children aged **6+ years** should be admitted to Class 1. Further, according to the National Education Policy 2020, while implementing the policy of having children aged 6+ years in Class 1, if an age policy is prescribed for the pre-primary (pre-Class 1) classes, there would be no age-related obstacle during the subsequent three years when children are admitted to Class 1.

For this purpose, it is necessary to implement the admission process in stages so that children admitted to Balwadi/Anganwadi/Nursery have completed **3 years of age as of 30 June**. Accordingly, the matter of determining the minimum age of children for school admission was under consideration of the Government. 202610151714471049

Government Resolution:

Through this Government Resolution, the minimum age for admission to pre-primary classes and Class 1 is hereby determined as shown in the following table:

Sr. No.	Class for Admission	Minimum Age	Reference Date for Age	Year of Implementation
1	Balvatika-1 / Nursery (3rd class before Class 1)	+3 years	30 June	From 2027-28
2	Balvatika-2 / Junior K.G. (2nd class before Class 1)	+4 years	30 June	From 2028-29
3	Balvatika-3 / Senior K.G. (1st class before Class 1)	+5 years	30 June	From 2029-30
4	Class 1	+6 years	30 June	From 2030-31

2. For enrolment in the foundational classes, from Nursery through admission to Class 1, the instructions given in the National Education Policy 2020, including the minimum-age criteria for admission, shall be followed.

3. The age criteria mentioned in the above table shall be implemented in stages from the academic year **2027-28**.

4. These age criteria shall **not apply to existing students from Nursery to Class 1 for the academic session 2026-27**.

5. At the school-head level, an age relaxation of **15 days** in the minimum and maximum age shall be permitted for admission from the pre-primary class (Nursery) through Class 1.

6. Regular students of any recognized school who have passed the previous class shall be exempted from applying the age criteria for admission to the next higher class. 202610151714471049

7. For admissions from the academic year **2027-28**, children must have completed the minimum age specified in the above table as of **30 June**. (That is, a child entering Nursery at the age of 3+ years in academic year 2027-28 will be in Class 1 at the age of 6+ years.)

8. Instructions/guidelines regarding admission of students to pre-primary classes and Class 1 according to the new age criteria shall be issued at the level of the Director of Education (Primary), Directorate of Primary Education, Pune.

9. This Government Resolution has been made available on the Government of Maharashtra website, www.maharashtra.gov.in, and its code is **202610151714471049**. This Government Resolution is being issued after being authenticated with a digital signature.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Maharashtra 202610151714471049

Tushar Vasant Mahajan
Deputy Secretary, Government of Maharashtra

Copy to:

1. Secretary to the Hon. Governor, Raj Bhavan, Mumbai.
2. Secretary to the Hon. Chief Minister, Mantralaya, Mumbai.
3. Secretary to the Hon. Deputy Chief Minister (Urban Development), Mantralaya, Mumbai.
4. Secretary to the Hon. Deputy Chief Minister (State Excise, Sports and Youth Welfare), Mantralaya, Mumbai.
5. Hon. Speaker / Chairman, Legislative Assembly / Legislative Council, Vidhan Bhavan, Mumbai.
6. Private Secretaries to all Hon. Ministers / Ministers of State.
7. Hon. Leader of Opposition, Legislative Assembly / Legislative Council, Vidhan Bhavan, Mumbai.
8. Legislative Assembly / Legislative Council, Vidhan Bhavan, Mumbai (all).
9. Deputy Secretary to the Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, Mumbai.
10. Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai.
11. Additional Chief Secretary, Planning Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai.
12. Principal Secretary, School Education Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai.
13. Commissioner (Education), Maharashtra State, Pune.
14. State Project Director, Maharashtra Primary Education Council, Mumbai.
15. Commissioner, Municipal Corporations, all.
16. Director, Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Mantralaya, Mumbai.
17. District Collectors, all districts.
18. Chief Executive Officers, Zilla Parishads, all.
19. Director of Education (Primary), Maharashtra State, Pune.
20. Director of Education (Secondary and Higher Secondary), Maharashtra State, Pune.
21. Director of Education (Planning), Maharashtra State, Pune.
22. Director, Maharashtra State Council of Examinations, Pune.
23. Director, State Council of Educational Research and Training, Maharashtra, Pune.

24. Director, Maharashtra State Bureau of Textbook Production and Curriculum Research (Balbharati), Pune.
 25. Chairman, Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education.
 26. All Divisional Deputy Directors.
 27. All Education Officers (Primary/Secondary/Continuing), Zilla Parishads.
 28. All Chief Officers, Municipalities/Municipal Councils.
 29. Selection file (Desk – SD-1). 202610151714471049
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If you want, I can:

- Explain implications of new minimum age policy for parents and schools
- Outline key differences between previous and new age criteria for admission
- Summarize phased implementation schedule for minimum age policy by academic year