

Highlights of National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) – 2023

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National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023



Highlights NCFSE-2023

The NCF-SE -2023 envisions a transformative education system aligned with NEP 2020, focusing on holistic development, teacher empowerment, engaging pedagogies, cultural integration, and sustainable practices.

Highlights NCFSE-2023

The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) envisions the creation of a robust and achievable education framework aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. This aims to empower states and promote educational harmony nationwide. The NCF and State Curriculum Frameworks (SCFs) aspire to provide a high-quality, inclusive education to all students, ensuring their holistic development and adaptability.

Highlights NCFSE-2023

The NCF 2023 aims to cultivate well-rounded, ethical, creative, and compassionate learners who can excel in higher education and careers. The emphasis is on nurturing lifelong learning skills and adaptability to societal changes, fostering active participation and contribution to the cultural, economic, and democratic fabric of society.

Highlights NCFSE-2023

The NCF 2023 seeks to transform society by promoting justice, equity, sustainability, and Indian cultural values. This vision aligns with India's global leadership in diverse areas, from economic growth and scientific advancement to social justice and cultural preservation. The education system should visibly uphold these goals through its content, teaching methods, school environment, and cultural practices.

Highlights NCFSE-2023

The NCF 2023 aims to create an education system that nurtures well-rounded individuals capable of lifelong learning and active societal engagement. This system contributes to India's holistic growth, fostering equity, sustainability, and cultural vitality while maintaining global leadership.

Highlights NCFSE-2023

- **Comprehensive curriculum framework covering all 4 stages of schooling.** The NCF-SE comprehensively covers all the four stages of schooling. The NCF-SE has articulated the learning standards to be achieved and the principles for selection of content, pedagogy, and assessments for achieving the learning standards.

Aligned with NEP 2020:

Developed for 5+3+3+4 schooling structure as proposed in NEP 2020.

Fulfills NEP's call for a comprehensive NCF-SE

Highlights NCFSE-2023

- **Enable real improvement in practise of education in the country.** The NCF-SE is designed to enable and help actual change in practise on the ground. The NCF-SE has made conscious and deliberate effort to communicate to all stakeholders in school education including Curriculum and Syllabus developers, so that it is useable in practical circumstances. Teachers and parent community can also comprehend the intention of the curricula that is developed on the basis of the NCF-SE.

Highlights NCFSE-2023

- **Learning Standards with clear, specific, and rigorous flow-down.** It articulates specific learning standards for all school subjects that gives clear direction for action for all stakeholders in the school system, particularly Teachers. The Learning Standards have defined specific competencies to be achieved at the end of each stage for each school subject. There is a clear, specific, and rigorous flow-down of curricular logic from the broad aims of school education to specific curricular aims of each subject, resulting in curricular goals and competencies for a specific stage in that subject

Highlights NCFSE-2023

- **Development of Knowledge, Capacities, and Values.** The curriculum focuses on development of knowledge with genuine understanding, fundamental capacities such as critical thinking and creativity, and constitutional and human values.

Highlights NCFSE-2023

- **Empowering teachers and schools. The NCF-SE designed to enable and empower teachers and schools for the full flowering of their creativity and enhanced engagement.**

Highlights NCFSE-2023

- **Engaging and effective pedagogy.** It enables the entire range of age and context appropriate pedagogy, from play-based, activity-based, inquiry-based, dialogue based, and more. This would also use effective, widely available, and highly engaging teaching-learning-material, including textbooks.

Highlights NCFSE-2023

- **Transforming assessment including exams.** Assessment and exams at all levels to be transformed, to enable genuine learning and reduce stress, including the Board exams.
 - a. Shifts assessment focus from facts to genuine learning and competencies.
 - b. Introduces stress-reducing changes to exam formats, including Board exams.
- **Importance of School Culture.** School culture and practises are to be developed as an integral and important part of the curriculum.

Highlights NCFSE-2023

- **Rooted in India.** The curriculum is rooted in India and is informed by the wealth of Indian knowledge and thought on education. Contributions to the knowledge in various disciplines by Indians from the ancient to contemporary times have been integrated into the curricular goals of all school subjects.

Highlights NCFSE-2023

- **Multidisciplinary education.** All children to go through multidisciplinary education to develop an integrated and holistic perspective and learning.
- **Equity and inclusion.** The NCF-SE is informed by principles to ensure equity and inclusion in all its aspects, from content and pedagogy, to, school culture and practises.

Highlights NCFSE-2023

- **Renewed emphasis on Art, and, Physical Education & Well-being.** The school subjects of Art Education and Physical Education & Well-being are given a renewed emphasis in the curriculum by defining specific learning standards to be achieved and recommended time allocation in the school timetables. Art Education encompasses both visual arts and performing arts and has equal emphasis on making, thinking about, and appreciating artwork. Physical Education and Well-being gives emphasis to sports, mind-body wellness through practices like Yoga, and ideas on incorporating traditional Indian games and sports into the curriculum.

Revitalized Education Areas:

Reinforces Art Education, Physical Education & Well-being, Environmental Education, and Vocational Education.

Renews focus on multidisciplinary learning, conceptual math understanding, and scientific inquiry capacity.

Highlights NCFSE-2023

- **Environmental Education.** Responding to the triple challenge of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, and the criticality of environmental awareness and sustainability in today's world, Environmental Education is given due emphasis across all stages of schooling culminating in a separate area of study in the Secondary Stage.

Highlights NCFSE-2023

- **Vocational Education.** The NEP 2020 has made strong recommendations for Vocational Education to be an integral part of school education and the NCF-SE has included specific learning standards, content, pedagogy, and assessments for Vocational Education for all stages of schooling. The curriculum proposes engagement in the three different forms of work – work with life forms (agriculture, animal husbandry), work with materials and machines, and work in human services.

Highlights NCFSE-2023

- **Multilingualism and Indian Languages.** The NCF-SE has given the necessary emphasis on multilingualism and on learning languages native to India. Given the rich multilingual heritage of India, it expects all students to be proficient in at least three languages, at least two of which are native to India. It expects students to achieve a “literary level” of linguistic capacity in at least one of these Indian languages.

Highlights NCFSE-2023

- **Conceptual understanding and procedural fluency in Mathematics.** The school subject of Mathematics & Computational Thinking has emphasis on conceptual understanding along with procedural fluency - with a goal to appreciate the beauty and universality of mathematics and reduce fear of the subject. Higher order curricular goals such as problem solving, mathematical thinking, coding, and communication are given due importance.

Highlights NCFSE-2023

- **Capacities for Scientific Inquiry.** Science Education emphasises the development of capacities for scientific inquiry along with acquiring knowledge of fundamental theories, laws, and conceptual structures of science in disciplines such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Earth Science.

Highlights NCFSE-2023

- **Interdisciplinary understanding of Social Science through themes.**
The social science curriculum expects students to systematically study human societies and explore the relationships between individuals, society, the natural environment, social institutions, and organizations. This is to be studied through themes in an interdisciplinary manner in the Middle Stage and developing disciplinary depth in the Secondary Stage.

Highlights NCFSE-2023

- **Flexibility and Choice in Secondary Stage.** The Secondary Stage has been significantly redesigned to offer more flexibility and choice for students. There are no hard separations between academic and vocational subjects, or between science, social science, art, and physical education. Students can choose interesting combinations of subjects for receiving their school-leaving certificates.

Highlights NCFSE-2023

- **Interdisciplinary Areas of Study.** Interdisciplinary Areas of Study has been introduced as a separate subject of study in the Secondary Stage. In this subject, students develop the ability to reason about contemporary challenges using knowledge from multiple disciplines including moral and ethical concerns. They are expected to use these abilities to understand and respond effectively to the concerns of environmental degradation that include climate change and biodiversity loss.

References and Resources

- <https://dse.education.gov.in/sites/default/files/NCF2023.pdf>
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