

SINDH ACT NO.IX OF 2015

THE SINDH SCHOOL EDUCATION STANDARDS AND CURRICULUM ACT, 2014

C O N T E N T S

Preamble

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[9th January, 2015]

An Act to provide for maintenance of school education standards and supervision of curriculum, textbooks, and assessment processes for improving quality of education from early years to grade twelve in the Province of Sindh.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the maintenance of school education standards, reflecting the learning needs of 21st Century, through supervision of research based curriculum, textbook and learned material, assessment and evaluation. **Preamble.**

AND WHEREAS it is vital to improve the quality of textbooks, learning material, assessment and teaching practices to attain minimum school education standards;

AND WHEREAS to develop capacity of the agencies and promote good governance across school education for maximizing student's learning outcomes through conducive learning environment.

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. (1) This Act may be called the Sindh School Education Standards and Curriculum Act, 2014. **Short title and Commencement.**
- (2) It shall extend to the whole of the Province of Sindh.
- (3) It shall come into force at once.

2. In this Act, there is anything repugnant in the subject or context - **Definition.**

- (a) "agency" means any department, institution or organization or directorate or bureau of Government and includes a corporation or other autonomous or semi-autonomous body set up under the law or by Government;
- (b) "assessment" means to evaluate student's learning outcomes;
- (c) "conducive learning environment" means a learning environment that facilitates in effective implementation of curriculum for raising education standards through developing students' learning skills for 21st century;

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- (d) "Council" means the Council established under section 5;
- (e) "curriculum" means a set of guidelines for preparing syllabi, scheme of studies, textbook and learning materials, and assessment practices as prescribed by Government;
- (f) "curriculum framework" means to ensure curriculum goals, learning or subject areas, standards, benchmarks and student learning outcomes development, implementation and evaluation to attain school education standards;
- (g) "Curriculum Wing" means the Curriculum Wing established by Government under this Act;
- (h) "early year" means the provision of education for children of age from 3 to 5;
- (i) "Government" means the Government of Sindh;
- (j) "institutions" means those institutions dealing with education from early years to grade 12 in accordance with prescribed curriculum and such other educational establishments as Government shall, by notification in the official Gazette, specify for the purpose of this clause;
- (k) "learning material" means additional resource materials that supports in the attainment of student learning outcomes for a specific subject at a particular level;
- (l) "Prescribed" means prescribed by the rules or regulations;
- (m) "quality" means education that enables all learners to reach their potential in terms of cognitive, psychomotor, social, emotional, critical, creative and problem solving capacities;
- (n) "regulation" means the regulations made under this Act;
- (o) "school education" means early years to grade twelve;
- (p) "standards" means education standards for school education to achieve student learning outcomes at each grade level in all subject areas in accordance with curriculum;

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(q) "textbook" means the learning material which is either print or in electronic form, developed and maintained in accordance with the curriculum for a specific grades and subjects competent authority.

3. (1) There shall be established a Curriculum Wing by Government for carrying out the purposes of this Act. **Establishment of Curriculum Wing and its functions.**

(2) The Curriculum Wing shall be responsible for policy matters relating to curriculum, textbooks and learning materials and assessment.

(3) The Curriculum Wing shall be headed by an officer designated by Government who shall be of proven academic and professional ability and with significant contribution to policy, research, curriculum, assessment and education as a whole.

(4) The Curriculum Wing shall report to Education Department and shall work closely with the agencies dealing with the curriculum, textbooks and learning materials and assessment. It shall -

- (a) provide guidelines for developing education standards;
- (b) frame policy on curriculum, assessment, textbooks and learning materials;
- (c) ensure alignment between education standards, curriculum, assessment, textbooks, and learning material;
- (d) provide guidelines for periodical review, evaluation and revision of curriculum and instructional material;
- (e) certify curriculum, textbook and learning material submitted by relevant educational institutions;
- (f) establish an effective coordination mechanism to promote formal links between institutions for sharing expertise, experience and relevant resources for improving quality of education;
- (g) design capacity building strategies to strengthen the agencies or institutions under the administrative control of Education and Literacy Department;
- (h) provide guidelines for research on curriculum, assessment and related elements of quality of education;

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- (i) advise on the facilities, equipment and instructional materials to support the curriculum implementation.

(5) The existing Bureau of Curriculum and Extension Wing shall be restructured as Directorate of Curriculum, Research and Assessment with its enhanced institutional capacity. It shall:-

- a. devise school education standards in line with guidelines provided by the Education and Literacy Department;
- b. commission evidenced-based research to inform policy, curriculum design, development and review, textbook and learning material development, and assessment of and /or for learning;
- c. develop, implement and evaluate curriculum by working closely with Sindh Textbook Board, Directorates of School Education and other related line departments;
- d. review textbooks and learning material for alignment with the school education standards and curriculum goals;
- e. conduct students' achievement tests at grade 3, 5 and 8;
- f. promote continuous assessment of students learning across all school levels.

(6) The Provincial Institute of Teacher Education (PITE) shall be responsible for implementing pre-service teacher education and continuous professional development programmes based on school education standards, curriculum for developing professionally competent teachers, teacher educators, and head teachers. The PITE shall be responsible for academic supervision of teacher education programmes, whereas all constituent teacher education institutes as well as PITE shall work under the administrative control of Education and Literacy Department.

(7) The Sindh Teacher Education Development Authority (STEDA) shall certify and accredit teacher education programmes and ensure the quality of both pre and in-service teacher education programmes to prepare professionally competent teachers to teach curriculum effectively. It shall also be responsible for teacher licensing for promoting culture of professionalism among teachers.

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(8) The Sindh Textbook Board shall further be strengthened as an effective regulating and monitoring authority to improve efficiency in managing authorship, production, copyrights, printing, and distribution of textbooks and learning materials in a timely manner by-

- a. ensuring performance and service standards at every stage of textbook and learning material supply chain processes;
- b. outsourcing textbook and learning material development and production as packages in a transparent and competitive manner;
- c. using education management information system supported technological innovations in the timely delivery and tracking of textbooks and learning materials down to classroom level.

(9) The Directorates of School Education through their District Education Officers shall monitor implementation of curriculum at least once each quarter and gather relevant information on the attainment of school education standards and report to the Education and Literacy Department in a timely manner.

(10) The Education and Literacy Department shall strengthen the institutional capacity of the agencies, under its administrative control, responsible for carrying out the objects or objectives of this Act on sustainable basis.

4. (1) The Government shall, by notification in the official Gazette, establish a Council to be called the Sindh Curriculum Council for the effective implementation of this Act.

Establishment of Sindh Curriculum Council and its Functions.

(2) The Council shall-

- (a) advice on framing school educational standards and developing strategies.
- (b) advice on introducing research based curriculum which is relevant to local, national, and regional needs;
- (c) formulate guiding principles, policies and priorities for development, implementation and evaluation of curriculum including textbooks and assessment within provincial, national, and global perspective;
- (d) ensure the maintenance of school education standards and supervision of curriculum according to the defined principles and policies; and

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(e) review performance reports and future plans by relevant education agencies and provide constructive feedback.

5. (1) The Minister for Education shall be the Chairperson and the Education Secretary shall be the Vice-Chairperson of the Council. The Council shall consist of the following as members:

Composition and Constitution

- | | | |
|-----|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Chairperson of Standing Committee on Education of the Sindh Assembly. | Member |
| 2. | Chairperson, Sindh Textbook Board. | Member |
| 3. | Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Research. | Member |
| 4. | Director General, PITE. | Member |
| 5. | Executive Director, STEDA. | Member |
| 6. | One Chairperson of Examination Boards. | Member |
| 7. | Dean, Faculty of Education, University of Sindh. | Member |
| 8. | Chief Programme Manager, RSU. | Member |
| 9. | Two Directors School Education. | Member |
| 10. | One Experts on Curriculum, Textbook, and Assessment. | Member |
| 11. | One Representative from corporate sector. | Member |
| 12. | One Representative from private school management. | Member |
| 13. | One Representative from an NGO working in Education. | Member |
| 14. | Serving Teachers (two Head Teachers and two Teachers) | Member |
| 15. | Head Curriculum Wing | Member/
Secretary |

(2) The Council may co-opt any person as a member for any particular purpose, but such person shall not have a right to vote.

(3) The non-official members of the Council shall hold office for a term of three years which shall be extendable for further one more term subject to performance of the non-official member.

6. (1) A person shall not be nominated or continue as member, if the person -

Disqualification.

- (a) is or has ever been convicted of offence involving moral turpitude; or

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- (b) is or has ever been found guilty of misconduct; or
- (c) is or has ever been declared to be of unsound mind by a court; or
- (d) is or has ever been adjudicated as an insolvent; or
- (e) is incapable of discharging the duties by reason of physical or mental infirmity and has been declared by a Special Medical Board constituted by the Government; or
- (f) is an employee of the staff of the Council other than the Chair and Vice-Chair; or
- (g) fails to disclose to the Council any conflict or interest with the Council within three days of his/her knowledge of the conflict of interest; or
- (h) stands disqualified by the order of a court to hold any public office; or
- (i) is or has ever been dismissed by Government.

(2) A nominated member may at any time resign from his or her office under his or her hand to the Chairperson.

7. (a) The meetings of the Council shall be held as often as necessary on such date, place and time as the Chairperson may determine; provided that the Council shall meet atleast once in quarter.

Meetings of the Provincial Curriculum Council.

(b) The quorum may call a meeting of the Council in relation to the functions of the Council.

(c) For the purpose of meeting, fifty percent members shall constitute a quorum.

8. Whoever contravenes or violates the provisions of this Act, shall be punishable with imprisonment, which may extend to six months, or with fine which shall not be less than forty five thousand rupees, or both, in addition to any other penalty to which he or she may liable under any other laws for the time being force.

Penalty.

9. No court shall take cognizance of an offence unless a complaint made by Government or its authorized officer in this behalf.

Cognizance of Offence.

10. No court below the Court of Judicial Magistrate shall take cognizance of an offence under section under this Act except upon a complaint in writing made by the Competent Authority.

Jurisdiction of Court.

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11. Any person, aggrieved by a direction or order of the Council, may, within thirty days of communication of the direction or order, prefer an appeal to Government, whose decision in the matter shall be final. **Appeal.**
12. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done in the pursuance of this Act or any rule or order made there under. **Indemnity.**
13. Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act. **Power to make rules.**
14. Subject to the Act and the rules, the Competent Authority may, with on the recommendation of the Provincial Curriculum Council, frame regulations for giving effect to the provisions of the Act and the rules. **Regulation.**
15. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to any of the provisions of this Act, Government may give such directions as it may consider necessary for the removal of such difficulty. **Removal of difficulty.**
16. (1) The provisions of the Federal Supervision of Curricula, Textbook and Maintenance of Standards of Education Act, 1976 (X of 1976) to the extent of the Province of Sindh are hereby repealed. **Repeal and savings.**
- (2) Notwithstanding the repeal of the Federal Supervision of Curricula, Textbooks and Maintenance of Standards of Education Act, 1976 (X of 1976), anything done, proceedings or action taken, order or rule made, liability incurred or right acquired under the said Act, so far as it is consistent with the provisions of this Act, shall be deemed to have been done, taken, made, incurred or acquired under this Act.