

on website

Directorate of School Education (Elementary), Punjab

PSEB Complex, Sector-62, SAS Nagar

(Speaking Order)

Order No. – E 702030

Dated SAS Nagar: 19.06.2026

Whereas, the Department of School Education, Punjab had notified the Punjab State Elementary Education (Physical Training Instructor) Service Rules, 2023 and subsequently amended vide notification dated 26.02.2025 and accordingly initiated the recruitment process for 2000 posts of Physical Training Instructor (PTI) for Primary Classes (Class I to V) vide advertisement dated 18.07.2025.

And whereas, the qualification criteria prescribed under the said rules was challenged before the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court in CWP No. 22801 of 2025 titled as *Raman Kumar and others v. State of Punjab and others* and CWP No. 13569 of 2025 titled as *Lovepreet Singh and others v. State of Punjab and others*. During the proceedings of the cases before the Hon'ble High Court, the Department withdrew the advertisement and constituted a Review Committee for examining the validity and appropriateness of the qualification criteria prescribed under the said Rules in the light of statutory provisions, judicial pronouncements and relevant regulatory framework. Accordingly, in view of the statement made on behalf of the State that the impugned advertisement had been withdrawn and a Committee had been constituted to reconsider the matter, the writ petitions were disposed of by the Hon'ble High Court vide order dated 11.08.2025. The relevant part of the order dated 11.08.2025 is reproduced as

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under:-

"Learned counsel for the petitioners submits that the petitioners are either B.P.ED (03-04 years course) or M.P.ED (02 years course) qualified from Punjabi University or Guru Nanak Dev University. The respondents have issued advertisement (Annexure P-4) for the post of Physical Training Instructors wherein the qualification of 10+2 with at least two years Diploma or Certificate in Physical Education has been prescribed. It takes 02 years for a student to complete the Diploma/Certificate. He further submits that similarly situated persons had earlier approached this Court and the Full Bench of this Court in the case of Manjeet Singh vs. State of Punjab and others, 2010(3) SCT 703 had held that the candidates having higher qualification in the same line cannot be excluded from selection. Respondents No. 2 and 3 had amended the Rules in consonance with the directions of the Full Bench of this Court in the case of Manjeet Singh's case (supra). However, before issuing the impugned advertisement (Annexure P-4), the Rules have been arbitrarily amended once again in violation of the judgment of the Full Bench of this Court in Manjeet Singh's case (supra) and only candidates having Diploma Courses/Certificate-holders have been held to be eligible.

2. Learned State counsel submits that the impugned advertisement has been withdrawn and a Committee has also been constituted to reconsider the matter. He has furnished copy of communication dated 11.08.2025, which is taken on record.

3. In view of the above, the instant petition has been rendered infructuous and stands disposed of accordingly."

And whereas, the Review Committee examined the relevant

provisions of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, applicable National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Regulations, judicial pronouncements including the Full Bench judgment of the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court in *Manjeet Singh vs. State of Punjab and others*, 2010(3) SCT 703 and the judgment dated 11.08.2023 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 5068 of 2023 titled as *Devesh Sharma v. Union of India and Others*.

And whereas, the Review Committee, vide its observations and recommendations, referred the matter to the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Punjab, whereupon a Committee of Subject Experts was constituted for comparative academic and pedagogical assessment regarding suitability of qualifications relating to Physical Education at Primary Level.

And whereas, the Committee of Subject Experts submitted its report based on curriculum mapping, pedagogical intent, developmental appropriateness, and statutory mandates, wherein it was concluded that:

“(i) B.P.Ed. and M.P.Ed. viz a viz D.P.Ed (formerly C.P.Ed) are higher qualifications in the same line but only in terms of discipline.

(ii) B.P.Ed and M.P.Ed while higher qualifications in the same discipline, are not equivalent to D.P.Ed (formerly C.P.Ed) for imparting education at primary level (Class I-V) due to their distinct learner focus and curricular orientation.

(iii) D.P.Ed (formerly C.P.Ed) is the most appropriate, suitable and

exclusive qualification for teaching Physical Education to students at the Primary Level (Classes I–V).”

On the basis of Subject Experts' committee report, the Review Committee referred the matter to the Learned Advocate General, Punjab seeking legal opinion on the following questions:

i. (a) *Whether the principle laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Devesh Sharma Versus Union Of India, holding that pedagogical suitability and learner-stage orientation are determinative for primary-level teaching, can be validly extended to the domain of Physical Education, thereby justifying the prescription of D.P.Ed/C.P.Ed, exclusively as the only appropriate qualification for PTI(Primary) posts for imparting physical education to children in Classes I to V.*

(b) *Whether the ratio of the Full Bench Judgement dated 05-02-2010 in “Manjit Singh Vs. State of Punjab” still remains applicable and continues to govern recruitment to the post of Physical Training Instructor (Primary) for Classes I-V in spite of changed statutory framework and pedagogical requirements of primary Education as per the statutory mandate of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 and the National Council for Teacher Education Regulations, 2014.*

ii. *Whether the State of Punjab, in conformity with the NCTE norms and acting on expert academic opinion furnished by SCERT, can lawfully prescribe D.P.Ed/C.P.Ed as the exclusive professional qualification for*

PTI (Primary) posts for imparting physical education to children in Classes I to V, to the exclusion of candidates holding B.P.Ed/M.P.Ed or any other qualification in Physical Education, such exclusion constituting a reasonable classification based on an intelligible differentia having a rational nexus with the object of ensuring quality physical education at the primary level, and thereby not violating Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution of India.

And whereas, the office of the Learned Advocate General, Punjab vide opinion dated 18.03.2026 opined as under:-

"..... it is legally sustainable for the State of Punjab to prescribe D.P.Ed./C.P.Ed. as the exclusive professional qualification for PTI (Primary) posts for Classes I - V, provided the prescription is made in conformity with NCTE norms and the applicable service rules. Such prescription would be founded upon pedagogical suitability and learner-stage orientation and would therefore not offend Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution."

B. Adh.
And whereas, the Review Committee, after considering expert academic opinion furnished by the SCERT and legal opinion of the office of the Learned Advocate General, Punjab, submitted its final recommendations concluding that:-

"..... prescribing D.P.Ed/C.P.Ed as the exclusive qualification for PTI(primary) posts is legally sustainable, pedagogically appropriate, and aligned with the constitutional mandate of ensuring quality elementary education."

Therefore, after consideration of the report of the Review Committee, Expert findings of the SCERT, legal opinion of the office of the Learned Advocate General, Punjab and all relevant statutory and judicial aspects, the following conclusions are arrived at:

1. The qualification criteria prescribed under the Punjab State Elementary Education (Physical Training Instructor) Service (First Amendment) Rules, 2025 is retained.
2. No amendment to the Punjab State Elementary Education (Physical Training Instructor), Service (First Amendment) Rules, 2025 is required.

This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Dated:19-06-2026

Harkirat Kaur Channe

Place:S.A.S Nagar

Director School Education (Elementary),Punjab

Endst No./702030/243-47

Dated: 19-06-2026

A copy of the above is forwarded to the following for information and further necessary action:-

1. Registrar, Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh.
2. Secretary, School Education, Punjab.
3. Director Education Recruitment Board, Punjab.
4. Director School Education (Secondary), Punjab.
5. Concerned Petitioners


Assistant Director(Services)