

Office of Director of Public Instruction (Secondary Education) Punjab.

(Establishment - IV Branch)

Order No. E-933165-ESTT-4(1)

Dated: S.A.S Nagar: 01.02.2026

To be substituted in place of order no 933165-ESTT-4(1) Dated: 18.07.2025

Sh. Tarun Sharma, Science Master Government High School Ghorenab, Lehragaga District Sangrur and others filed Civil Writ Petition No 33804 of 2024 in the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court with the prayer to grant the statutory pay scale as mandated in the 2018 Rules viz 10300-34800 + Grade pay 5000/- from entry into service alongwith arrears and interest at 12% thereon in light of law settled in CWP no 15896 of 2023 titled as Saurabh Sharma and others vs State of Punjab and another. The Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High court disposed of the writ petition vide order dated 16.12.2024. The operative portion of the order is reproduced as below:-

"Learned counsel for the respondent-State submits that in case, the representation 09.08.2024 (Annexure P/20) has been filed by the petitioners, the same will be decided in accordance with law by passing an appropriate speaking order within a period of 08 weeks from the date of the receipt of copy of this order and in case, it is found feasible to accept the claim of the petitioners, the same will be accepted, otherwise due reasons for not accepting the claim of the petitioners will be mentioned in the speaking order so passed, which order will be conveyed to the petitioners for their information and necessary action.

*Learned counsel for the petitioners submits that keeping in view the statement of learned counsel for the respondents, the present petition may kindly be disposed of having been not pressed any further at this stage.*

In compliance with the above said orders of the Hon'ble Court, the speaking order dated 18.07.2025 was issued by the department whereby in the light of communication dated 09.07.2025 issued by Finance Department, claim of the petitioners was accepted.

The petitioners were granted personal hearing on 05.01.2026 in the interest of justice to put forth their defence to substantiate their claim. They have claimed

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the pay scale applicable upon them, according to the applicable rules and refix the pay accordingly.

I have examined the claim raised by the petitioners and also considered the order of Hon'ble Court in CWP No. 15896 of 2023 tiled as Saurabh Sharma and others versus State of Punjab and another in which it was held that all candidate appointed under the same recruitment process are entitled to equal pay as per the 2016 Rules regardless of actual appointment date in terms of which the present Petition has been disposed of . The relevant portion of the judgment in CWP No. 15896 Of 2023 followed in Saurabh Sharma 's case is as under:-

*"At this stage , learned counsel for the petitioners submit that though the petitioners have claimed interest but keeping in view the fact that they are only interested in the pay scale as entitled to them under 2016 Rules, they are not pressing their claim for the grant of interest..."*

The Service of petitioners are governed by the " The Punjab Educational (Teaching Cadre) Group C Service Rules, 2018 and The Punjab Educational (Teaching Cadre) Border Area Group C Service Rules 2018." Rule 5 of the said rules provide that, " The members of the Service Shall be entitled to such scales of pay as may be authorized by the Department of Finance from time to time .

Accordingly, the approval is hereby accorded to fix the pay of the petitioners as per the above mentioned 2018 rules. Further According to the Punjab Civil Service (Revised Pay) Rules, 2021, notified by the State of Punjab Vide Notification No. 09/01/2021-5FP1/671 dated 05.07.2021, these pay scales are not applicable to employees recruited on or after 17.07.2020. The relevant part of the said rules is reproduced below:-

*1.6/2022*  
" 2 (2) They shall not apply to the (b) Government Employee recruited in the service of State of Punjab or the Punjab Vidhan Sabha on or after 17.07.2020, on whom pay scales on the pattern of the Government of India are applicable."

As per above provision made in the rules, the pay scales as per 6<sup>th</sup> Punjab Pay Commission are not applicable to the petitioners in this case. .

Subsequently, in compliance of the orders of the Hon'ble High Court in matters related to Saurabh Sharma's case, Department of Finance, Punjab has issued instruction dated 05.01.2026, wherein it has been decided to grant the pay scale to the petitioners/employees which are more beneficial to them. The relevant part of the instruction dated 05.01.2026 is reproduced here under:

**5. Decision of Government**

**5.1 After examination, the Government has decided that re-fixation of pay in cases decided on the basis of the judgment in Saurabh Sharma & Ors. vs. State of Punjab & Ors. shall be undertaken as under:**

**A. Cases where Departmental Pay Scale is Lower than 7th CPC Pay Scale**

Where the pay fixed under the Departmental Service Rules (as applicable on the date of appointment) is lower than the pay scale notified on the pattern of the 7th CPC, the pay shall be fixed strictly as per the 7th CPC pay scale, being more beneficial to the employee.

Such cases are already covered under Finance Department letter dated 30.10.2025 and shall not require further re-fixation. This category includes:

- Employees governed by departmental rules mentioning pre-5th PPC pay scales, and
- Most employees governed by departmental rules mentioning pre-revised 5th PPC pay scales.

**B. Cases where Departmental Pay Scale is Higher than 7th CPC Pay Scale**

Where the pay fixed under the Departmental Service Rules is higher than the pay scale notified on the pattern of the 7th CPC, re-fixation shall be carried out as under:

**i) Employees not covered under instructions dated 15.01.2015**

For employees to whom Finance Department letter No. 7/204/2012-4FP1/66 dated 15.01.2015 is not applicable, and where the salary (Basic Pay + DA\*) under Departmental Rules exceeds the salary (Basic Pay+DA\*\*) under the 7th CPC:

- The salary under the Departmental Rules shall be taken as the basis.
- The corresponding basic pay shall be fixed at the same stage, or if not available, at the next higher stage in the 7th CPC pay level notified for the post.

(DA rates shall be applied strictly in accordance with Annexure 'A' as clarified in the earlier instructions.)

Illustration: Annexure 'B'

ii) Employees covered under instructions dated 15.01.2015

- During the probation period, if the minimum pay in the pay band under Departmental Rules is lower than Cell-1 of the 7th CPC pay level, pay shall be fixed at Cell-1, being more beneficial.
- If such pay is lower than applicable DC rates, DC rates shall apply.
- On successful completion of probation, pay shall be fixed strictly as per Para A or Para B(i), as applicable."

Accordingly, in compliance of the orders dated 16.12.2024 passed by the Hon'ble High Court & in light of the above said directions dated 05.01.2026 issued by the competent authority, i.e, The Department of Finance, Punjab, the pay of the Petitioners be refixed strictly as per instructions contained in para 5 of the said instruction dated 05.01.2026.

Gurinder Singh Sodhi, P.C.S  
Director School Education (S.E),  
Punjab

Endst. No. Even / 2026 26727-29 dated: 02.02.2026

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

1. Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of School Education (Education-5Branch), Civil Secretariat (II, Sector-9), Chandigarh.
2. Concerned District Education Officers (secondary) to fix the pay of the petitioner after getting it verified from the Section Officer/DCFA and send the report to this directorate.
3. Concerned Petitioners as per List through D.E.O (Secondary).

  
Assistant Director School Education

ਦਫਤਰ ਜਿਲਾ ਸਿਖਿਆ ਅਫਸਰ(ਸੈ.ਸਿ) ਬਠਿੰਡਾ

ਪਿਠਾਅੰਕਣ ਨੰ: ਅ-1/1( )2026/943

ਮਿਤੀ 02.02.2026

ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਦਾ ਉਤਾਰਾ ਸੰਬਧਤ ਸਕੂਲ ਮੁਖੀਆਂ ਸਸਸਸ/ਸਹਸ ਜਿਲਾ ਬਠਿੰਡਾ ਨੂੰ ਭੇਜ ਕੇ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਕਤ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਸੰਬਧਤ ਪਟੀਸ਼ਨਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਹੁਕਮ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਵਾਏ ਜਾਣ ਅਤੇ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਰਿਪੋਰਟ ਇਸ ਦਫਤਰ ਨੂੰ ਭੇਜੀ ਜਾਵੇ।

  
ਜਿਲਾ ਸਿਖਿਆ ਅਫਸਰ (ਸੈ.ਸਿ)  
ਬਠਿੰਡਾ