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Office of Director School Education (Secondary), Punjab.
Education Complex (Punjab School Education Board) Block-E, Phase-8,
S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali)
(Service-3 Branch)

Order No. E-1057121 Services-3
Dated : 12-02-2026

Speaking Order

The petitioners filed CWP No. 34563 of 2025 seeking to quash of the letter dated 04.11.2025, whereby respondent to clarify that while a post-graduation degree is required for promotion to the post of principal, the statutory requirement of securing minimum 50% marks (General category) and 45% marks (Reserve Category) "Shall not apply". Subsequently the finalized seniority list dated 13.11.2025 and the promotion notification dated 14.11.2025 were issued without any column for scrutiny of percentage of marks in post-graduation, contrary to the Punjab Educational Service(School and Inspection General Cadre) Group A Service Rules, 2018, as amended on 12.09.2025. This action reflected an attempt to sidestep the statutory qualification of minimum fifty percent (50%) marks in the Master's degree, along with the requirement of qualifying the departmental examination prescribed under the said Rules.

The Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court disposed of the case vide order dated 01.12.2025, the operative part of the order is reproduced below:-

"2. Learn counsel appearing on behalf of the respondents has submitted that letter dated 04.11.2025(Annexure P-1)has been withdrawn vide letter issued today itself ie 01.12.2025. The same taken on record and is marked as 'X'. A copy of the said letter has been handed over to learned counsel for the petitioners in Court today by learned counsel for the respondents.

3. in view of above letter dated 01.12.2025, learned counsel for the petitioners does not want to press the present petition qua letter dated 04.11.2025(Annexure P-10). However, he submits that as , it is mandatory to pass a departmental examination in order to become eligible for the post of Principal, the State has not conducted any examination till date. Learned counsel on instructions from the petitioners submits that the petitioners would be satisfied, if at this stage, direction is given to respondent No. 2 to treat this petition as a representation in regard to holding of a departmental examination and to consider and decide the same in a time-bound manner.

4. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the respondents does not oppose the prayer made by learned counsel for the petitioners.

5. Learned counsel appearing for the petitioners is directed to supply a copy of the petition to learned State counsel during the counsel of the day.

6. in view of the above and without commenting upon the merits of the case, the present petition is hereby disposed of with a direction to respondent No 2 to treat the present petition as a representation of the petitioners in regard to holding of a departmental examination and to consider and decide the same, as per law/rules, within a period of 02 months from the date of receipt of certified copy of this order."

In compliance with the above orders, the respondent department has duly and meticulously considered the representation submitted by the petitioners regarding the holding of a departmental examination. The petitioners prayed that no appointments/promotions under the impugned process until the mandatory eligibility requirement of qualifying the departmental examination is duly complied with in accordance with law.

It is pertinent to note that Rule 7 of Punjab Education Service Rules, 2018 was amended vide notification dated 12.09.2025 and substituted as follows:-

"In the said rules, for rule 7, the following rule shall be substituted namely

"7. Departmental Examination :- Every person appointed to the post of Deputy District Education Officer, Principal Government Senior Secondary School, unless he has already done so, has to qualify the Departmental Examination, as may be specified by the Government, from time to time"

This provision makes it mandatory for every person appointed to the post of Deputy District Education Officer, Principal Government Senior Secondary School, to qualify the departmental examination and where such qualification has not been obtained earlier, the person is obliged to do so within the period prescribed by the Government from time to time. Accordingly, the stipulation of holding departmental examination cannot be construed as a **condition precedent** for seeking promotion, but is, in law and substance, a **condition subsequent**. Regarding the conduct of departmental examination, guidelines have also been issued, vide notification dated 28.01.2026 (Annexure-R1).

Paramjeet Singh s/o
Phase-3, Path
9206377

In view of the above, the representation of the petitioners has been duly considered. The statutory framework as amended clearly provides that qualifying the departmental examination is mandatory but operates as a condition subsequent to appointment/promotion. Therefore, the prayer to halt appointments/promotions until the examination is conducted cannot be acceded to.

This speaking order is issued in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court dated 01.12.2025.

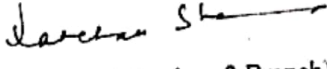
Gurinder Singh Sodhi, PCS
Director School Education, Punjab

Endorsement No. As above 202644392-402 Dated: 17/02/2026

A copy of speaking order is forwarded to the following for information and necessary action: -

1. Registrar, Punjab & Haryana High Court Chandigarh.
2. Secretary, Government of Punjab, Department of School Education, (Education-4 Branch).
3. P.A./D.S.E (SE) Punjab.
4. Legal Cell O/o DSE (SE), Punjab.
5. Concerned District Education Officers (S.E)
6. Vijay Kumar s/o Ashok Kumar aged 33 years r/o Chak Mochanwala, Fazilka, Punjab. Aadhar No: 632913885585, Mobile No: 9206379000.
7. Naresh Singla s/o Surinder Pal aged 39 years r/o #99 Ward no.21 Maya Garden Enclave, Sunam, Sangrur, Punjab. Aadhar No: 681940121269, Mobile No:9206379000
8. Harjasmeet Singh s/o Satinderbir Singh aged 35 years r/o #558, Are wali gali, Shant Nagar Rayya, Amritsar, Punjab. Aadhar No: 584886357141, Mobile No:9206379000
9. Jaskaran Singh s/o Baljinder Singh aged 43 years r/o Basant Vihar, Bathinda, Punjab. Aadhar No: 947649643546, Mobile No:9206379000
10. Sarabjeet Kaur c/o Lovepreet Singh aged 33 years r/o #87 B Ajit Nagar Ward No 20, Sangrur, Punjab. Aadhar No: 714590420213, Mobile No:9206379000

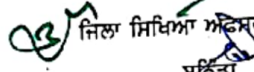
Paramjeet Singh s/o Kuldeep Singh aged 44 years r/o #349, Urban Estate
Phase-3, Patiala, Punjab. Aadhar No: 288190769138, Mobile No
:9206379000


Assistant Director(Services-3 Branch)

ਦਫਤਰ ਜਿਲਾ ਸਿਖਿਆ ਅਫਸਰ(ਸੈ.ਸਿ) ਬਠਿੰਡਾ
ਮਿਤੀ 19.02.2026

ਪਿਠਾਅੰਕਣ ਨੰ: ਅ-1/1()2026/ 989

ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਦਾ ਉਤਾਰਾ ਸੰਬੰਧਤ ਸਕੂਲ ਮੁਖੀਆਂ ਜਿਲਾ ਬਠਿੰਡਾ ਨੂੰ ਭੇਜ ਕੇ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਕਤ ਆਰਡਰ ਸੰਬੰਧਤ ਪਟੀਸ਼ਨਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਾਉਣੇ ਯਕੀਨੀ ਬਣਾਏ ਜਾਣ।


ਜਿਲਾ ਸਿਖਿਆ ਅਫਸਰ (ਸੈ ਸਿ)
ਬਠਿੰਡਾ