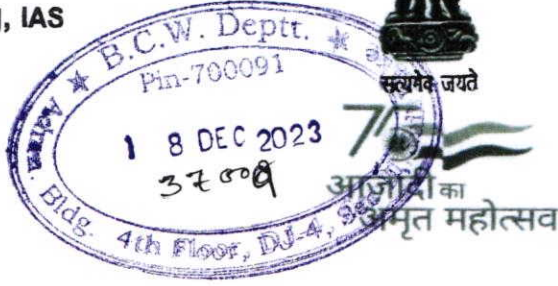


सौरभ गर्ग, भा.प्र.से.
सचिव
Saurabh Garg, IAS
Secretary



भारत सरकार
सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय
सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता विभाग
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Department of Social Justice & Empowerment



5777-OSD
15/12/23

Secy, BCW

D.O. No. 17013/01/2023-SCD-III

December 13, 2023

Dear Chief Secretary,

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India is running the 'Scheme of Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas' (SHRESHTA) from academic year 2022-23 to provide quality education for meritorious SC Boys and Girls selected through a nationwide National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS) to study in the best private residential schools in the country.

2. As part of the Scheme every year the best private residential schools are selected based on parameters such as: the school has been in existence for at least 5 years; having more than 75% pass percentage in Class 10 and 12 in the last 3 years; and having adequate infrastructure for admitting additional at least (10) SC students in 9th and 11th Classes (together).

3. The entry for student is in **Class 9 and 11** till the completion of education upto Class 12. Every year, 3000 fresh students are selected under the Scheme through a National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS) conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA). Allocation of schools is done by web counseling process, allocating the seats as per merit and choices of the students.

4. The financial assistance is provided by directly transferring the money to the selected schools electronically towards tuition and hostel fees of students as per actuals charged by the school or the prescribed limit mentioned in the Scheme guidelines whichever is less. No fee or any other charges is chargeable from the beneficiary students by SHRESHTA Schools. Apart from this, there is a provision of grant upto 10% of annual fees for enhancing capacity of the admitted SC students so that they can catch up with the rest of the class.

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5. For the year 2024-25, it is expected that NETS will be conducted in April 2024. I would like you to arrange wide publicity of the Scheme in all the schools through social media and other platforms so that meritorious SC Boys / Girls students will be benefited under the Scheme. A copy of the Scheme Guidelines is enclosed for ready reference.

Regards,

Yours sincerely,

Saurabh Garg

(Saurabh Garg)

To,
Chief Secretaries of all States and UTs

Enclosure : As above

**Revised Scheme For Residential Education For Students
in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESTA)
(FROM 2023-24 TO 2025-26)**

1. OBJECTIVE

Providing quality education and opportunities for even the poorest is the Constitutional mandate. The students from the Scheduled Caste communities, for long been subjects of untouchability, were kept out of quality education; a situation that perpetuates the disadvantages carried forward for generations of discrimination. The Governmental efforts to spread educational facilities without discrimination have worked well in achieving near universal access. However, the objective of providing access to quality education that provides a level playing field, is still far from reality. The scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA) has been conceived to provide access to high quality education to the students from Scheduled Caste communities.

The objective of SHRESHTA is to enhance the reach of development Intervention of the Government and to fill the gap in service deficient SCs dominant areas, in the sector of education through the efforts of grant-in-aid institutions (run by NGOs) and residential high schools offering high quality education and to provide environment for socio economic upliftment and over all development of the Scheduled Castes (SCs). The Scheme is further modified to provide easier access to the bright SC students in the best schools in the Country, thereby securing their future opportunities.

2. Modalities of operation

The scheme would be implemented in two Modes:

**Mode 1: SHRESHTA schools
(Best CBSE private Residential Schools)**

Under this, each year a specified number of meritorious SC students in States/UTs will be selected through the National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS) to be conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) and admitted in the best private residential schools identified based on the database of the CBSE, **the residential schools recommended under SHRESHTA by District Authorities in 2021-22 and other eligible private residential schools affiliated to any other Board, including State Boards, recommended by District Authorities for participation in the scheme. Admission of students will be done in classes 9th and 11th for completion of education till 12th standard based on selection through NTA.**

Thereafter, the students may be connected to Post Matric Scholarship Scheme or Top-Class Education Scheme to continue their further studies with adequate financial aid.

This component (Mode-1) shall be operationalized as per the following details:

1. Selection of schools:

- a. The best performing private residential schools identified based on the database of the CBSE, **the residential schools recommended under SHRESHTA by District Authorities in 2021-22 and**