

FOREWORD

The National Education Policy 2020 recommends a **'light but tight' regulatory framework** to ensure **integrity, transparency, and resource efficiency** of the educational system through audit and public disclosure while encouraging innovation and out-of-the-box ideas through **autonomy, good governance, and empowerment**(NEP 2020, pg.5).

It further recommends that “The overemphasis on inputs, and the mechanistic nature of their specifications – physical and infrastructural – will be changed and requirements made more responsive to realities on the ground, e.g., regarding land areas and room sizes, practicalities of playgrounds in urban areas, etc. These mandates will be adjusted and loosened, leaving suitable flexibility for each school to make its own decisions based on local needs and constraints, while ensuring safety, security, and a pleasant and productive learning space. **Educational outcomes and the transparent disclosure of all financial, academic, and operational matters will be given due importance and will be incorporated suitably in the assessment of schools.** This will further improve India's progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) of ensuring free, equitable, and quality primary and secondary education for all children. ...The aim of the public-school education system will be to impart the highest quality education so that it becomes the most attractive option for parents from all walks of life for educating their children. “(NEP, 2020 Pg. 32)

The NEP also recommends Public Self disclosure. It states, **“Transparent public self-disclosure of all the basic regulatory information will be used extensively for public oversight and accountability. The dimensions on which information has to be self-disclosed, and the format of disclosure will be decided in accordance with global best practices for standard-setting for schools.** This information will have to be made available and kept updated and accurate by all schools on the schools’ websites...An effective quality self-regulation or accreditation system will be instituted for all stages of education including pre-school education - private, public, and philanthropic - to ensure compliance with essential quality standards. [SEP] (NEP, 2020 Pg.31)

We must also take into account the following recommendations by the NEP: “All in all, regulation must aim to **empower schools and teachers with trust**, enabling them to strive for excellence and perform at their very best, while ensuring the integrity of the system through the enforcement of complete transparency and full public disclosure of all finances, procedures, and educational outcomes. “(NEP, 2020 Pg.30)

Hence, the Affiliation process of CBSE has been reengineered in consonance with the National Education Policy 2020. In tune to the mandate of the National Education Policy 2020, CBSE has taken proactive measures to ensure that the new affiliation process is transparent, completely online, more accountable, and reduces compliance burden facilitating ease-of-doing-business by time-bound disposal of affiliation process. This Manual outlines the new process for CBSE affiliation. It documents the process flow/work flow charts, clearly distinctive parts/ stages of affiliation process, all formats to be used for this process, an experiential video and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).

This Manual will also be of immense help to the schools/ individuals so that the process of affiliation becomes a smooth and swift experience for them. It may also be noted that on the question of interpretation of any point of this Handbook, the provisions as mentioned in the CBSE Affiliation Byelaws shall prevail and the decision of the Board shall be final.