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உமது இல.
Your Ref.

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திகதி
Date

2024.11.18

Circular Number :- 34/2024

- All the Provincial Secretaries of Education
- All the Provincial Directors of Education
- All the Zonal Directors of Education
- All the Divisional Directors of Education
- All the Parivenadhipathi/ Heads of the Pirivena
- Principals of the All Government Schools
- Principals of the All Government Approved Private Schools
- Principals of the All Assisted Special Schools

Expansion of the Bilingual Education Opportunities for Secondary Grades (6-11)

This circular is issued after being amended the relevant facts to conduct bilingual classes mentioned under Section 4 of the Circular Number 2008/12 dated 21.04.2008 of the Ministry of Education that has been issued with the signature of the Secretary to the Ministry of Education in relation to the implementation of the Bilingual Education Programmes for secondary Grades (6-11).

1.0 Definition of the Bilingual Classes

- 1.1 Permission had been granted to the schools where necessary facilities are available for this to teach some subjects in English medium for the 6-11 Grades since year 2002 followed by considering the necessity and importance of the English Language as stated in the Para.4.2 of the Circular Number 2008/12.
- 1.2 Teaching of some subjects in Sinhala/Tamil medium for Grade 6-11 and teaching of some selected subjects in English Language in the same class (in two mediums/ bilingually) is introduced as bilingual classes. Accordingly, opportunities are given to study the subjects stated in Sec.3.1.1 and 3.1.2 of this Circular, in English medium.

2.0 Selection of students for Bilingual Classes

- 2.1 When the initiation of the bilingual classes from Grade 6, in case of number of students Studying the bilingual education is less than 25, classes must be held as bilingual classes. Therein, bilingual students must also study at the same class together with either Sinhala or Tamil students whereas when the relevant subjects are learned in English medium, facilities must be provided for learning opportunities relevant to this. However, in case of the instances where number of students studying the bilingual education is more than 25, actions can be taken to carry out as a separate classroom by being included the bilingual students only. It is the responsibility of the principal to prepare a relevant school time table in this regard. Actions must be taken in compliance with the above instructions with effect from year 2024. Students must be selected from the students admitted to Grade 6 to study the chosen subjects in English medium. The reason of receiving the bilingual education is not a relevant prequalification to be admitted to the school.

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- 2.2 Students must be selected for the bilingual education from the all students admitted to Grade 6 in compliance with the methodology recommended by the Ministry of Education only in order to admit the children to Grade 6.
- 2.3 In case of a request is made by a student to change the medium of learning upon any reason during Grade 7 to Grade 9, such a request must be forwarded to Management Committee within the school by the principal of the school by considering the recommendation made by the teacher coordinator on bilingual education. Relevant approval must be given followed by being examined the performance level of the relevant student and feasibility of the school to carry out the educational activities by the committee.
- 2.4 In case of all the students in Grade 6 apply for the bilingual education at the initiation of the bilingual classes; opportunity must be given for such occasions. However, when the facilities are unable to provide on bilingual education as per the request, a selection test is possible to be held in order to seek the solutions over the management matters encounter by the school. Selection of the students with qualifications must be carried out by conducting a single test only for the all children admitted to Grade 6 at the beginning of the first term in the relevant year followed by being obtained the approval by the Zonal Director of Education subjected to the recommendation made by the Zonal Coordination Officer on Bilingual Education while being predicted the demand for bilingual education in accordance with the formal methods by the principals at the beginning of the academic year to conduct this test. This test must be conducted under the supervision and monitoring of the Zonal Coordination Officer on Bilingual Education.


3.0 Subjects being taught in English medium

3.1 Following provisions shall be effective hereafter in respect of the subjects teaching at the bilingual classes of Secondary Grades (6-11) since year 2024.

3.1.1 Subjects that can be taught in English Medium for Junior Secondary Grades (6-9)

- I. Mathematics
- II. Science
- III. History
- IV. Health & Physical Education
- V. Western music under the Aesthetic subjects
- VI. Geography
- VII. Life Skills and Citizenship Education
- VIII. Information & Communication Technology

It is possible to select a single subject or number of subjects required among the subjects stated above based on the management of the Human & Physical Resources available in the school.



3.1.2 Subjects that can be taught in English Medium for Senior Secondary Grades (10-11)

Under the core/substantial subjects

- I. Mathematics
- II. Science
- III. History

Under the category subjects

- I. Geography
- II. Citizenship Education
- III. Entrepreneurship Education
- IV. Music (Eastern)
- V. Information & Communication Technology
- VI. Health & Physical Education
- VII. Business & Accounting Studies
- VIII. Agri & Food Technology
- IX. Communication & Media Studies
- X. Home Economics

It is possible to select a single subject or number of subjects required among the subjects stated above based on the management of the Human & Physical Resources available in the school.

- 4.0 Opportunities must be given to select a single subject or several subjects or all the subjects among the subjects stated above based on the management of the Human & Physical Resources available in the school. Accordingly, bilingual branch of the Ministry of Education must be informed by the Provincial/ Zonal Coordination Officer on Bilingual Education in respect of the selected subjects.

Limitations stated at 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 above are not effective for the personal applicants sitting for G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) Examination.

- 5.0 Instances where approval must be obtained when the implementation of the Bilingual Classes.

- I. At the beginning of the bilingual classes initially.
- II. At the beginning of the G.C.E. (Advanced Level) English Medium classes.
- III. At the introduction of the new subjects under the bilingual approach.
- IV. At the instances where prevailing parallel classes available under the schools must be increased to improve the bilingual education opportunities.
- V. At the problematic situations in relation to bilingual classes being carried out within the school up to present.
- VI. At the instances where number of bilingual classes being operated currently, required to be decreased or increased such due to any reason. (While being continued the number of parallel classes as it is)



5.1 Approval

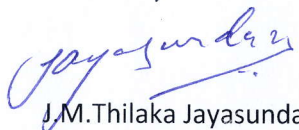
- I. If it is a National school, it must be forwarded together with the recommendation of Zonal Director of Education and Provincial Director of Education to the Secretary of the Ministry of Education to obtain the approval by the structural committee.
- II. If it is a Provincial school, bilingual branch of the Ministry of Education must be informed by the Provincial Coordination Officer on Bilingual Education after being obtained the approval by zonal and provincial structural committee.

6.0 Applying for G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) Examination by the Bilingual Students

It is possible to apply for several subjects or single subjects in English medium as per the discretion of the students when applications are presented for the G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) Examination as the school applicants even though relevant students have studied several subjects in English medium. No opportunity is given to change the medium after the application is submitted.

Zonal and Provincial Directors of Education must be ensured to find whether the provisions laid down by this circular, and other relevant circulars are enacted authentically in schools and when it is not as such, to take appropriate actions. For this, assistance of the Zonal and Provincial Coordination Officer on Bilingual Education must be obtained.

Actions must be taken based on the above instructions with effect from year 2024.


J.M.Thilaka Jayasundara

The secretary

Copies:-

1. The Chairman, National Education Commission- F.N.A
2. The Chairman, University Grant Commission - F.N.A
3. Director General, National Institute of Education - For Necessary Action
4. Commissioner General of Examinations, Department of examinations - For Necessary Action
5. Director General of Education Publications, Department of Education Publications - For Necessary Action
6. Director of education (Planning/National Schools/Teacher transfers/bilingual education) - For Necessary Action
7. Chief Commissioner (Teacher Education), College of Education Branch - For Necessary Action