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Office of Director School Education (Secondary) Punjab, Complex Punjab
School Education Board, Block-E, Phase-8, SAS Nagar.
(Establishment-1 Branch)

Order No. E- 985817/ Establishment-1 (5)/

Dated: S.A.S Nagar: 03-02-2026

Aatish Kumar son of Bodh Raj R/o VPO Janial Tehsil and District Pathankot and 65 others filed Civil Writ Petition No. 22008 of 2025 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 Rs 5400/- 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 05.08.2025. The operative portion of the order is reproduced as below:-

24 *"3. In view of the above and without commenting upon the merits of the case, the petitions are hereby disposed of with a direction to the respondents to decide the representations dated 07-02.2025 taking note of the aforesaid judgment, within a period of 6 months, which this Court has no reason to believe the authorities would not address in a just, fair and reasonable manner. Upon doing so, after notice and hearing offered to them and if found entitled, grant the benefit forthwith. Needless to say, if the orders are adverse to their interest, the same shall contain reasons and the petitioners shall be free to seek legal redress thereupon".*

In compliance with the above said orders of the Hon'ble Court, the petitioners were afforded opportunity of personal hearing on dated 09-01.2026 in this directorate.

I have examined the representation dated 07-02-2025 and the claim raised by the petitioners during personal hearing and has also considered the order of Hon'ble Court in CWP No. 15896 of 2023 titled as Saurabh Sharma and others versus State of Punjab and another in which it was held that all candidates 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

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Petition has been disposed of. The relevant portion of the judgment passed in CWP No. 15896 of 2023 is reproduced 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-B Service Rules, 2018 and The Punjab Educational (Teaching Cadre) Border Area Group-B 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."

Subsequently, in compliance of the orders of the Hon'ble High Court in matters related to Saurabh Sharma's case. Department of Finance, Govt. of Punjab has issued various instructions, the latest instruction issued on 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 as 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 light of the above said directions dated 05-01-2026 issued by the competent authority, i.e., the Department of Finance, Punjab and based on the due verification of records, the pay of the petitioners is ordered to be fixed strictly as per instructions contained in para 5 of the said instructions dated 05.01.2026. While fixing the pay of the petitioners it shall be kept in mind that where the pay fixed under the Departmental Service Rules (as applicable on the date of appointment i.e. 2018 Rules) is lower than the pay scale notified on the pattern of the 7th CPC, the pay of such petitioners shall not require re-fixation, however, where the pay under the Departmental Service Rules is higher than the pay scale notified on the pattern of the 7th CPC, the pay of the petitioners shall be

re-fixed as per formulae devised in Para 5.1(B) of instructions dated 05-01-2026.
This order is issued strictly in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble High Court and the concurrence granted by the Finance Department.

Gurinder Singh Sodhi,
Director School Education ((Secondary),
Punjab

Endst. No. Even / 202631289-291 dated: 05/02/2026

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-2 Branch), Civil Secretariat(II, Sector-9), Chandigarh.
2. Concerned District Education Officers (SE) 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 (SE).

Assistant Director (Establishment-I)

ਦਫਤਰ ਜਿਲਾ ਸਿਖਿਆ ਅਫਸਰ (ਸੈ.ਸਿ) ਬਠਿੰਡਾ

ਪਿਠਾਅੰਕਣ ਨੰ: ਅ-6/1()2026/1906

ਮਿਤੀ 16.02.2026

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

ਜਿਲਾ ਸਿਖਿਆ ਅਫਸਰ (ਸੈ.ਸਿ)
ਬਠਿੰਡਾ