

Govt revises primary teacher transfer rules

‘Eminent persons’ dropped from local panels; seven conditions added

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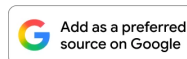


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The government has added seven conditions for posting new teachers and transferring existing teachers at primary schools.

It has also replaced “eminent persons” on school committees.

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The primary and mass education ministry introduced a four-tier system on June 21, authorising committees at the upazila, district, divisional and national levels to scrutinise and settle transfer applications.

However, the decision to use a manual system and include two chair-nominated “eminent persons” on each local panel drew criticism from some education officials, teachers and others in the sector.

The earlier order did not define who would qualify as an “eminent person”, raising concerns that involving outsiders in an administrative process could create scope for lobbying and undue influence.

Following the criticism, the ministry revised the rules on Thursday. The four-tier structure remains, but the nominees on divisional, district and upazila panels will now be described as people interested in education. The national committee has no such nominees.

The director general of the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) will chair the national committee, replacing the primary and mass education secretary. The ministry’s joint secretary for schools will be a member, while the DPE director for policy and operations will serve as member secretary.

The national committee will examine applications for transfers between divisions and those involving city corporations, and send a final list to the ministry for administrative approval. Following approval, the DPE director for policy and operations will arrange for the transfer orders to be issued.

Divisional commissioners, deputy commissioners and upazila nirbahi officers will chair the divisional, district and upazila or thana committees respectively. Each panel will include two chair-nominated people interested in education.

Divisional panels will handle transfers within the same division, excluding city corporations. District panels will deal with transfers within a district, including municipalities but excluding city corporations, while upazila or thana panels will handle transfers within their jurisdictions, including municipalities.

District committees will also oversee the lottery-based posting of newly recruited assistant teachers to government primary schools at the upazila level.

All four committees must meet at least once a month and prioritise schools where earlier transfer orders were issued on condition that replacements would be provided.

Under the seven conditions, assistant teachers must complete at least two years of service before becoming eligible for transfer. After a transfer, a teacher must serve at least three years before being considered for another.

Transfers may be made only against vacant posts. No teacher may be moved without applying, except in the public interest or for administrative reasons with the national committee's approval.

Teachers cannot be transferred from schools with five or fewer teachers, or where the teacher-student ratio exceeds 1:40.

If more than one teacher from the same school applies, priority will be given according to seniority. Not more than three teachers may be posted to a school on attachment.

Subject to meeting all conditions, teachers will receive priority for transfer to schools near their permanent address or, where applicable, their husband's permanent address.