



CENTRAL BOARD OF OPEN SCHOOLING AND EXAMINATION

“Serving under the national framework for open schooling and vocational education, in alignment with the guiding principles of the National Education Policy (NEP) –

Government of India.”

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Press Release

NCrF-Aligned Credit Accumulation & Mobility Guidelines

It is hereby notified for the information of all affiliated study centres, regional academic coordination units, district learning facilitation cells, institutional heads, credit transfer officers, assessment coordinators, ABC integration officers, faculty members and all academic stakeholders functioning under the Central Board of Open Schooling & Examination (CBOSE), that in alignment with the Ministry of Education, Government of India, the Board is implementing the **National Credit Framework (NCrF)–Based Credit Accumulation & Mobility Guidelines for the Academic Year 2025**. This directive is issued pursuant to the national mandate to unify school, vocational, skill, and higher education through a credit-based, flexible, and multidisciplinary learning ecosystem as envisioned in NEP–2020.

The year 2025 marks the formal rollout of the NCrF-linked Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) integration for school-level learners, thereby enabling credit portability, multi-entry and multi-exit pathways, accumulation of academic and skill credits, and lifelong learning recognition. As CBOSE caters to diverse learners — including working individuals, school dropouts, skill trainees, vocational candidates, special-category learners, and flexible-learning students — the Board is bound to ensure full compliance with the national credit mobility architecture.

Through this Notification, the Board directs all affiliated institutions to transition their academic, assessment, administrative, and documentation systems to a structure compatible with the NCrF–2025 credit matrix. Institutions must ensure that the curriculum delivery, learning activities, assessment practices, attendance mapping, skill training components, and practical exposure align with NCrF’s comprehensive definition of “Notional Learning Hours” which governs credit value determination at the school level.

Institutions must begin by ensuring that each learner registered for the 2025 session is assigned a unique **ABC ID (Academic Bank of Credits Identification Number)**. This ABC ID shall form the basis for credit upload, transfer, retrieval, and verification. No learner shall be allowed to proceed with examinations, certification, or mobility processes unless their ABC ID is authenticated. Institutions must also verify Aadhaar-linked identity to ensure accuracy of demographic details, as discrepancies may result in credit rejection at the national repository.

Institutions must update their subject structures according to the NCrF Level Classification. Class X learners generally fall under NCrF Level 2 and Level 3 categories, while Class XII corresponds to Level 4. Vocational, technical, paramedical, IT, skill-based and applied courses must also be aligned with NCrF’s Skill Credit Levels. Institutions must maintain clarity on the credit allocation for each subject including theory components, practical

components, project work, field exposure, and self-study hours. Every subject must reflect the correct notional hours as per NEP-defined norms.

The Board directs institutions to adopt the **Credit-Based Assessment Philosophy**. Assessments shall not merely evaluate marks but must relate directly to credit-weighted learning outcomes. Institutions must ensure that learners achieve competency benchmarks equivalent to the notional hours mandated for each credit. Learners must not simply be “promoted”; they must “earn” their credits through verified academic engagement. Institutions must redesign internal assessments, TMAs, practical demonstrations, viva-voce, and activity-based submissions to reflect the credit-linked outcome matrix.

It is hereby emphasised that the process of credit accumulation shall be continuous. Learners may accumulate credits through theory classes, practical sessions, skill modules, vocational experiences, field-based learning, project-based learning, online/digital modules approved under NCrF, and prior learning recognition where eligible. Institutions must rigorously document each activity contributing to credit accumulation. No undocumented credit shall be accepted by the Board.

In accordance with the Ministry of Education’s 2025 directive on **Multi-Entry Multi-Exit Pathways (MEME)**, every learner under CBOSE must be allowed to pause, continue, or resume learning without academic penalty, provided their credits remain valid. Institutions must maintain digital ledgers of credit accumulation and ensure timely uploads to the ABC platform. Learners discontinuing study mid-year due to employment, health issues, migration, or personal circumstances must be provided an official Credit Statement, enabling them to resume learning at a later date, either within CBOSE or any other credit-recognising institution in India.

The Board emphasises institutional accountability in maintaining accurate credit records. Any discrepancy between the institution’s records, the Board’s internal database, and the ABC repository may result in audit flagging, temporary credit freeze, or withholding of certification. Institutions must verify all credit uploads, especially for practical subjects and vocational modules where documentation is more elaborate.

In 2025, the Board shall also recognise **Prior Learning Credits (PLCs)** under the national Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) model for eligible learners. Individuals possessing skill training experience, informal learning, workplace exposure, or community-based experiential knowledge may provide documented proof or undergo Board-assessed evaluation to earn recognised credits. Institutions must establish RPL Facilitation Desks to guide such learners.

Institutions must ensure that certificates, marksheets, migration certificates, and passing documents reflect the credit tally, credit level, and learning outcome category as prescribed under NCrF–2025. The Board shall issue **Credit-Based Digital Certificates** compatible with DigiLocker, ABC Wallets, and the National Academic Depository. These documents shall carry QR authentication ensuring national and international recognition.

The Ministry of Education has mandated transparent **Credit Mobility Procedures**. Accordingly, institutions must respond promptly to mobility requests from learners wishing to transfer into CBOSE or out of CBOSE into other institutions. Institutions must not create procedural delays or administrative hurdles. The Board shall monitor mobility timelines and may intervene where required.

The Board reiterates that institutions must complete **Academic Year Readiness Audits** reflecting full NCrF compliance. This includes infrastructure readiness, record-keeping preparedness, digital portal functionality, credit ledger maintenance, student counselling, ABC

onboarding, faculty readiness, and examination preparedness. Institutions that fail to pass the readiness audit may face restrictions in enrolling learners for the 2025 cycle.

This Notification must be displayed prominently across institutional notice boards, websites, learning management portals, teacher rooms, and student information centres. Institutional heads must ensure that all teachers, coordinators, counsellors, and administrative staff receive comprehensive orientation on NCrf guidelines.

This Notification supersedes all earlier credit-related circulars applicable to CBOSE.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Copy with a request to respective Heads of Directorates as indicated below to also disseminate the information to all concerned schools under their jurisdiction:

1. All Regional Directors/Regional Officers of CBOSE with the request to send this circular to all the Heads of the affiliated schools of the Board in their respective regions
2. All Joint Directors/Deputy Directors/Assistant Directors, CBOSE
3. In charge IT Unit with the request to put this circular on the CBOSE websites
4. The Assistant Librarian, CBOSE
5. The Public Relations Officer, CBOSE
6. PS to Chairperson, CBOSE
7. SPS to Secretary, CBOSE
8. Guard File



Organization Secretary

**Central Board of Open Schooling and
Examination, New Delhi**