



STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, HARYANA

NIRVACHAN SADAN, PLOT NO. 2, SECTOR- 17
PANCHKULA, HARYANA – 134109

Website: www.secharyana.gov.in

Phone : +91172 258 4810

Email id: sec@hry.nic.in

Fax : +91 172 258 5904

URGENT

No.SEC/1ME/2026/2528-2549

Dated: 24.06.2026

To

All the Deputy Commissioners
in the State of Haryana

Subject:- Validation of educational certificates issued by various institutions towards contesting the elections Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils and Municipal Committees—Clarification regarding.

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Sir/Madam,

I have been directed to refer to the above subject and to say that the State Government has made educational qualification mandatory to the candidates contesting elections of Chairpersons (Mayors of Municipal Corporations and Presidents of Municipal Councils & Municipal Committees) and Members of Municipal Corporations, Councils in the year 2016 and has accordingly made necessary amendments in the Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994 & the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973 and rules made thereunder. The relevant sections of the Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994 & the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973 and rules of the

Haryana Municipal Corporation Election Rules, 1994 & the Haryana
Municipal Election Rules, 1978 in this regard, provides as under:

**The Haryana Municipal Corporation
Act, 1994**

Section 8 (1) (r) **Disqualifications of Mayor and members.**—(1) A person shall be disqualified for being chosen as and for being a Mayor or member of the Corporation—

(r) if he has not passed matriculation examination or its equivalent examination from any recognized institution/board:

Provided that in case of a woman candidate or a candidate belonging to scheduled Caste, the minimum qualification shall be middle pass

Provided further that in case of a woman candidate belonging to Scheduled Caste, the minimum qualification for members excluding Mayor shall be 5th pass.

Section 34 B **34B. Removal of Mayor or member having any disqualification at time of election.** – The State Election Commission may, after such enquiry, as it may deem fit or after giving an opportunity of being heard, by order, remove a Mayor or member, if he was having any disqualification mentioned in section 8 at the time of his election. The office of the Mayor or member so disqualified shall become vacant immediately.

**The Haryana Municipal Corporation
Election Rules, 1994**

Rule 23 (1) **23. Disqualifications for Mayor and members.**— (1) A

The Haryana Municipal Act, 1973

Secti on 13 A (1) (h) **13A. Disqualifications for President and Members.**—(1) A person shall be disqualified for being chosen as and for being President or a member of a municipality.-

(h) if he has not passed matriculation examination or its equivalent examination from any recognized institution /board:

Provided that in case of a woman candidate or a candidate belonging to Scheduled Caste, the minimum qualification shall be middle pass.

Provided further that in case of a woman candidate belonging to Scheduled Caste, the minimum qualification for members excluding the President shall be 5th pass.

Secti on 13 I **13 I. Removal of an elected President and Member having any disqualification at time of election.**— The State Election Commission may, after such enquiry, as it may deem fit and after giving an opportunity of being heard, by an order, remove the President or a member, if he was having any disqualification mentioned in section 13A or rules framed under this Act at the time of his election. The office of the President or member so disqualified shall become vacant immediately.

**The Haryana Municipal Election Rules,
1978**

Rule 21 (1) **21. Disqualifications for President and members.**— (1) No person shall be eligible for election as a

person shall be disqualified for being chosen as , and for being a Mayor and member of the Corporation, if he incurs any of the disqualification as mentioned in section 8.

President/member of a committee, who.-

has not passed matriculation examination or its equivalent examination from any recognized institution/board:

Provided that in case of a woman candidate or a candidate belonging to Scheduled Caste, the minimum qualification shall be middle pass.

Provided further that in case of a woman candidate belonging to Scheduled Caste, the minimum qualification for members excluding the President shall be 5th pass.

2. At the time of elections and even after that, the State Election Commission, Haryana receives several complaints regarding fake or bogus or invalid or unrecognized educational certificates issued by various institutions and it becomes difficult for the State Election Commission, Haryana to determine the validity and recognition of such certificates at the relevant stage. The State Election Commission, Haryana had thus referred this matter to the Legal Remembrancer, Haryana for advice on the following points:

- i) Whether the 5th, 8th or 10th class pass certificate issued by any Board/Institution of any other State which is treated as equivalent by the School Education Board Haryana, Bhiwani only will be valid educational qualification for any candidate being chosen as and for being President or a member of a municipality?
- ii) Whether the 5th, 8th or 10th class pass certificate issued by any Board/Institution which is recognized in any State other than Haryana but not included in the equivalency list of Board of School Education Haryana, Bhiwani, will also be considered as valid educational qualification for any candidate being chosen as and for being President or a member of a municipality?

3. The Legal Remembrancer and Administrative Secretary to Government, Haryana, Law and Legislative Department vide U.O.

No.1055-G (18)Election.Op.Br.23/60 dated 13.02.2022 drawn the attention of the State Election Commission, Haryana towards rule 21(4) of the Haryana Municipal Election Rules, 1978, which provides as under:

'21(4) If any question arises as to whether the president or a member of a committee has become subject to any of the disqualifications mentioned in the Act and the rules, the question shall be referred by the Deputy Commissioner to the State Election Commissioner, Haryana whose decision shall be final.'

In view of abovesaid provision, the Law and Legislative Department has advised that necessary decision in the matter is to be taken by the State Election Commissioner at his own level whose decision shall be final.

Further, section 8(5) of the Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994 also provides as under:

"Section 8(5) If any question arises as to whether a Mayor or member of the Corporation has become subject to any of the disqualifications mentioned In sub-sections (1) and (2) the question shall be referred for decision of such authority and in such manner as the Government may by notification provide."

As is provided under this section, the State Government vide Notification No. 12/17/2002-3 CII dated 12.04.2002 has authorized the State Election Commission an authority for the purpose of sub-section (1) and (2) of section 8, to whom the cases shall be referred to for decision through Deputy Commissioner. With this authorization, the provisions of section 8(5) of the Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994 comes at par with the provisions of rule 21(4) of the Haryana Municipal Election Rules, 1978.

4. The Financial Commissioner & Secretary to Government, Haryana Education Department in compliance of the orders of Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh passed on 16.05.1999 in CWP No.16320 of 1996 titled Ram Bhagat etc. versus State of Haryana and others, has also clarified vide Memo No. 15/S4/29-Edu-II (2) dated 02.11.1999 that the Degrees/Diplomas/Certificates/Examinations recognized by the Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak, Guru Jambheshwar University, Hisar, Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, N.D.R.I Karnal, Board of School Education Haryana, Bhiwani, State Board of Technical Education Haryana would stand recognized in the State of Haryana for admission and recruitment purposes.

5. The State Election Commission, Haryana vide letter No. SEC/4E-II/2015/11554-55 dated 29.12.2015 i.e. at the time of 5th general elections of Panchayati Raj Institutions had also sought clarification/concurrence on certain points pertaining to educational qualification from Director, Secondary and Elementary Education, Haryana and both the authorities had clarified/concurred as under:

- i) Metric Certificates issued by BOSE, Haryana and CBSE should be accepted as such.
- ii) School leaving certificate issued by Govt. Schools need no verification. The Certificates issued by private schools can be countersigned by BEO, DEEO or DEO only after proper verification of school record, which is cumbersome; it may not be possible within given time frame of election notification.

- iii) DEO has no means to verify the certificates issued by school of other states.
- iv) Certificates issued by various State Education Boards, State Open Boards, or other Boards should be compared with list of recognized Boards issued by Board of School Education Haryana, Bhiwani for deciding validity.
- v) Metric pass candidates should be eligible where eligibility is middle standard and middle pass candidates to be treated eligible where eligibility is 5th pass.

6. In view of above and after considering the advice of the Legal Remembrancer and Administrative Secretary to Government, Haryana, Law and Legislative Department as well as the clarification issued by the Education Department regarding recognition & equivalence of educational qualifications and to avoid misinterpretation or litigation on educational certificates, the State Election Commission, Haryana, in exercise of the powers vested under article 243K and 243ZA of the Constitution of India, Section 8(5) of the Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994, Rule 21 (4) of the Haryana Municipal Election Rules, 1978 and other enabling provisions of the Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994 & the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973, hereby clarifies, for the purpose of determining whether a candidate possesses the prescribed education qualification under the said Acts and Rules, as under:-

- i) A certificate of the 8th or 10th class issued by any other State Board/Institution which is situated outside the State of Haryana/any other State which is treated as valid educational qualification equivalent to that of the examination conducted by the School Education Board Haryana, Bhiwani (Competent Authority), shall be considered as valid educational qualification for any candidate being chosen as and for being Mayor/President or a member of a municipality.

- ii) School leaving certificate issued by Govt. Schools may ordinarily be accepted without further verification unless any specific doubt regarding genuineness arises. The Certificates issued by private schools can be countersigned by BEO, DEEO or DEO only after proper verification of school record.
- iii) The School leaving certificates issued by the private schools of other States should be countersigned by the respective District Education Officer (DEO) of that State.
- vi) Certificates issued by various State Education Boards, State Open Boards, or other Boards should be compared with list of recognized Boards issued by Board of School Education Haryana, Bhiwani for determining recognition/equivalence.
- vii) Metric pass candidates should be eligible where eligibility is middle standard and middle pass candidates to be treated eligible where eligibility is 5th pass.

7. In view of the above, you are requested to follow the above and may be circulated to all other concerned with the abovesaid clarification/decision of the State Election Commission, Haryana. A copy of above clarification/decision may also be sent to the Returning Officers / Assistant Returning Officers and concerned officers/officials in your district with the instructions to take note of and act in accordance with the above clarification while dealing with issues relating to educational qualifications during the Municipal Corporation, Municipal Council and Municipal Committee elections to be conducted in future.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary,
State Election Commission, Haryana

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A copy of above is forwarded to the following with the directions to familiarize themselves and all other concerned with these guidelines and strictly comply during municipal elections to be conducted in near future:-

1. Commissioners of all the Municipal Corporations.
2. District Municipal Commissioners of all the Municipal Councils and Committees.
3. Executive Officers (E.Os) of all the Municipal Corporations and Councils.
4. Secretaries of all the Municipal Committees.

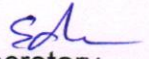


Secretary,
State Election Commission, Haryana

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A copy of above is forwarded to the Director General, Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana, Chandigarh for publication in the leading news papers having wide circulation in the State of Haryana.



Secretary,
State Election Commission, Haryana

Endst. No. SEC/1ME/2026/

Dated: 24.06.2026

A copy of above alongwith enclosure is forwarded to I.T.Cell of this Commission with the directions to host the notification in the official website of this Commission.



Secretary,
State Election Commission, Haryana

CC: Librarian (two copies for record)