



## Centre Scrapped “No Detention Policy”

**For Prelims:** [National Education Policy 2020](#), [National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning](#)

**For Mains: Detention Policy:** Arguments in Favour and Against, Features of [National Education Policy 2020](#), [Issues Related to the Education Sector in India](#), [Government Initiatives Related to Educational Reforms](#)

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### Why in News?

- Recently, the Central Government has abolished the **"no-detention" policy** for **Classes 5 and 8** in schools governed by it including **Kendriya Vidyalayas** and **Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas**.
- It was done through a **gazette notification** titled **“Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Rules, 2024”**.
- This amendment allows schools to **detain students who fail to meet promotion criteria**.

### No-Detention Policy

- The no-detention policy was introduced under **Section 16 of the Right to Education Act (RTE)**. **Section 16** of the Act stipulates **two key provisions**:
  - Firstly, **no child** receiving elementary education shall be **expelled from school**, and secondly, **no child shall be retained in any class**.
  - It **prohibited schools from detaining students up to Class 8** to ensure children receive a minimum level of education without the fear of failure, thereby reducing dropout rates.

### What is Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Rules, 2024?

- The [Right to Education \(RTE\) Act, 2009](#), was amended in 2019 to eliminate the **no-detention policy**. The **Rules** to implement the amended Act were delayed and passed in 2024 to keep them in sync with the [National Curriculum Framework \(NCF\)](#) following the introduction of the [National Education Policy \(NEP\) 2020](#).
  - Following the **RTE amendment Act, 2019**, 18 states and UTs, including Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu, have abolished the policy.
    - Haryana and Puducherry are yet to decide, while states like Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh continue to implement it.
- **Key Provisions Under Amended Rules:**

- **Revised Promotion Criteria:** Exams and re-exams will assess holistic development, focusing on learning rather than rote memorization.
  - **Students failing in annual exams will receive 2 months** of additional instruction and a **re-exam opportunity** to address learning gaps.
- **Retention in Case of Non-Promotion:** Students failing after re-exams will be retained in the same class.
- **Specialized Interventions for Detained Students:** Class teachers must guide detained students and their parents, **providing targeted interventions.**
  - School heads are responsible for monitoring progress and ensuring remedial effectiveness.
  - Under the NEP, students who are weak in studies should be paid special attention.
- **Inclusive Learning Approach and Safeguards:** The rules prioritize holistic development, ensuring no student is expelled before completing elementary education, in line with the RTE Act.

## What are the Arguments in Favour and Against the No-Detention Policy in School Education?

### ▪ Arguments in Favor:

- **Reduces Dropouts:** The policy aimed to **reduce the number of students dropping out** of school due to the **fear of failure and detention.**
- **Focus on Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE):** It emphasized CCE, which focuses on **continuous assessment of a child's progress in various aspects**, rather than a single high-stakes examination.
  - This holistic approach aimed to **reduce exam-related stress and anxiety.**
- **Inclusive Education:** The policy promoted **inclusive education** by ensuring that all children, regardless of their academic performance, stay in school and receive an education.
- **State Demands:** Several states **passed resolutions against the policy**, emphasizing the need for accountability in elementary education.
  - By 2019, the RTE Act was amended, allowing states to decide on implementing detention policies for Classes 5 and 8.
- **Alignment with NEP 2020:** The decision to scrap the policy aligns with the objectives of NEP 2020 which emphasizes **competency-based learning and accountability** in school education.
- **Global Practices:** Countries like Finland emphasize remedial measures and continuous assessment over automatic promotion.
  - **Grade retention in the US** is a common practice where **students who fail to meet grade-level standards** are required to **repeat a grade.** The policy varies across different grade levels and states.

### ▪ Arguments Against:

- **Low Learning Outcomes:** The no-detention policy has **led to complacency among students and educators**, resulting in a **decline in education standards** as schools focus more on administrative tasks like **mid-day meals** than on improving learning outcomes.
  - The **ASER 2022 report** highlighted that **only 20% of Class 3 students in rural India could read a Class 2-level text** and as per **2023 report** about **25% of the youth** cannot read a **Class II level text fluently** in their regional language.
    - Over half struggle with division problems, with only 43.3% of 14-18-year-olds able to solve such problems correctly.
- **High Failure Rates in Higher Classes:** As per Education Ministry **65 lakh students failed Classes 10 and 12** in 2023, reflecting **foundational learning gaps.**
  - Automatic promotion without necessary skills and knowledge in lower standards leads to **increased failure rates in secondary school.**
- **Lack of Accountability:** The policy is seen to reduce accountability among students and teachers, **as students are automatically promoted to the next grade** regardless of their performance.
- **Does Not Address Root Causes:** The policy is criticized for not adequately addressing the root causes of poor learning outcomes, such as **inadequate teacher training, lack**

of infrastructure, and socio-economic factors.

## Right to Education

- **Education** was originally a state subject in India under the **Government of India Act 1935**. However, during the **42nd Amendment Constitutional Amendment 1976**, education was moved to the **Concurrent List**.
  - Thus now **both the central and state governments** can legislate on matters concerning education.
- The **Eighty-sixth Amendment Constitution Act, 2002** made the **Right to Education** a **fundamental right** under **Article 21A** for children aged **6-14 years**.
  - It added **Article 21A** under **Fundamental Rights**, making education a fundamental right for children aged six to fourteen, mandating free and compulsory education.
  - In the **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)**, **Article 45** was substituted to **emphasize the state's responsibility to provide early childhood care and education** until the age of 6.
  - Additionally, **Article 51A** was amended to **include a duty for parents or guardians** to ensure **educational opportunities for their children** or wards between 6 and 14 years.
- Later, **Parliament** passed the **Right to Education Act, 2009**, enforcing RTE as a **fundamental right** under **Article 21-A**.

## Government Initiatives Related to Educational Reforms

- [National Education Policy, 2020](#)
- [National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning](#)
- [Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan](#)
- [PRAGYATA](#)
- [Mid-Day Meal Scheme](#)
- [PM SHRI Schools](#)
- [Samagra Shiksha Scheme 2.0](#)

## Conclusion

The no-detention policy was a well-intentioned step towards promoting inclusive education and reducing dropouts. However, its implementation has faced challenges and criticisms. While the policy aimed to create a more child-friendly education system, it also inadvertently led to a decline in academic rigor and accountability.

### Drishti Mains Question:

Discuss the implications of abolishing the 'no-detention policy' under the RTE (Amendment) Rules, 2024, and its alignment with the National Education Policy 2020.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### Prelims

**Q. Which of the following provisions of the Constitution does India have a bearing on Education? (2012)**

1. Directive Principles of State Policy
2. Rural and Urban Local Bodies
3. Fifth Schedule

4. Sixth Schedule
5. Seventh Schedule

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3, 4 and 5 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**Ans- (d)**

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**Mains**

**Q1.** How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the education system in the country? Elaborate on your answer. **(2020)**

**Q2.** Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail. **(2021)**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/centre-scraped-no-detention-policy>

