

## School Management Committee (SMC)

Syllabus: GS2/ Governance; Education; Social Justice

### Why in News?

*School Management Committee (SMC) Guidelines 2026 was recently announced by Central government in Delhi.*

- **Nodal Agency** - Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.
- **Vision** - To cement the gap between society and school, ensuring every child by 2047 achieves foundational education and literacy.
- **Objective** - Guidelines are designed to align governance of school with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and transform SMCs into active governing body.
- **SMCs** - Were originally mandated under the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, the 2026 guidelines expand their scope to share responsibility to community ownership from mere Monitoring.

### Guidelines

#### Universal and Unified Structure

- **Coverage** - Within one month of the academic session starts every school up to grade 12 must form an SMC.
- There will be now single SMC to ensure continuity, unlike the previous separate bodies ( for elementary and Secondary)

#### Composition & Representation

- **Size** - (12-15 members for small schools; up to 25 members for schools with 500 students).
- **Quota for Parents** - 75% of members must be guardians or parents.
- **Women members** - must be at least 50%.
- **Social Inclusivity** - Representation for SC, ST, OBC, Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs), and parents of Children with Special Needs (CwSN).
- **Tenure** - Fixed at 2 years

#### Financial

- **SMCs are** - authorized to execute civil works costing up to **Rs30 lakh**.
- **Funds are** - maintained in a separate joint bank account operated by the Parents (chairperson) and Principal (Member Secretary)
- **Social Audit** - At least once a year to ensure transparency, committees are encouraged to conduct social audits.

#### School Development Plan (SDP)

SMCs are expected to have 3-year SDP with annual sub-plans.

- It would cover infrastructure needs, teacher requirements & academic goals.

### **Sub-Committees**

To handle specific tasks, SMCs can form:

- **School Building Committee** - For Repairs & Infrastructure.
- **Academic Committee** - To monitor learning outcomes, student attendance, and mental health.

### **Significance**

- **Decentralization** - It shifting power to local community would make school more accountable.
- **Holistic Development** - Focus on mental health, foundational literacy & child safety rather focusing not just on building.
- **Integrates schemes** - Like Vidyanjali, PM POSHAN & Eco- clubs under one umbrella.
- **Social Movement** - Make school governance a "people's movement" where ownership of education is taken by society.

**For Reference:** [The Times of India | IAS Parliament](#)

