



# Why kids are forced to carry heavy bags despite many orders

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**Gurgaon:** The Union ministry of human resource development (MHRD), in a circular on November 20, asked all states and Union Territories to formulate guidelines to regulate the teaching of subjects and the weight of schoolbags.

Parents, however, have said that such rules have been issued time and again for over three decades now, but nothing concrete has been done to ensure implementation at the ground level.

The most recent directive by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on the matter came on April 2016, when it had issued a notice to all its affiliated schools

asking them to reduce the weight of schoolbags for students. As per the directives by CBSE and MHRD, Class 12 school bags must not exceed 5kg, while for Classes 1 and 2, they should not be more than 1.5kg. The latest MHRD directive also states that there will be no homework for classes 1 and 2.

Several leading schools have managed to reduce the weight of children's bags. But many others haven't.

"The present guidelines from CBSE are nothing new. It had first issued similar guidelines in 1993. Schools have not followed them for over three decades, and they will continue to do so," said Ramesh Rana, president, Haryana Parents Forum for



Parents say it is not the first time authorities have come up with rules

Education.

Neeta Rana, whose two sons study in Classes 8 and 10

in Government Senior Secondary School, Dhankot, echoed the same concerns.

"My sons take heavy bags to school as they have to carry all textbooks. Their bags weigh more than 10kg each, but no one has looked into the schoolbag issue. The present guidelines won't be of any use," she said.

Meanwhile, private schools said it's the responsibility of MHRD to ensure that rules are implemented. "Students bring textbooks and reference books, which make the bag heavy. Our education system needs to change and should be more innovation-based. CBSE and other agencies do come out with rules but they don't implement it," said Deepika Sharma, principal, DPSG, Palam Vihar.

Principal Aparna Erry

from DAV School, Sector 14, said, "Most students carry heavy bags, which should be stopped. I have seen some bringing stainless steel water bottles. This adds to the weight."

Other schools have already put measures in place. Rashmi Malik, principal of Salwan Public School, Sector 15, said, "I am surprised that the government had to intervene in this matter. School administrators need to do this on their own. We do not have this issue in lower classes and try to adjust the timetable every year for higher classes in such a manner that schoolbags are not very heavy."

Similarly, Lancer's International School, DLF 5, ke-

eps stationery in its premises to reduce the burden of students' bags, said school head YK Sindwani.

Another school has installed lockers for children to keep their books. "We provide lockers to our students to lighten the burden," said Vaibhav Kapoor, principal, Ajanta Public School Sector 31.

The Haryana education department, on the other hand, said it hasn't received any letter from CBSE or MHRD regarding the weight of schoolbags. "We haven't received any guidelines on schoolbags from the government or the education body," district elementary education officer Premlata Yadav told TOI.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/gurgaon/why-kids-are-forced-to-carry-heavy-bags-despite-many-orders/articleshow/66835911.cms>

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Rohit E David | TNN | Updated: Nov 28, 2018, 02:49 IST



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*Students carrying heavy schoolbags*

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