

# UP, HRD Ministry Prepare Reform Blueprint for Schools

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**New Delhi:** The Yogi Adityanath government has teamed up with the Union human resource development ministry to develop an “overarching framework for school education reform” in Uttar Pradesh, where the state of education is dismal on all parameters.

The first partnership of its kind is aimed at overhauling education in the country’s most populous state, where 4.84 crore children study in 2.56 lakh schools. The blueprint for ‘Transforming School Education’ in UP, accessed by ET, calls for developing district-wise education and school infrastructure plans, adoption and mentoring of schools in districts identified in the bottom 25% on education outcomes, Aadhaar-based child tracking and biometric systems to check teacher absenteeism.

It also envisages shutdown of poor quality teacher training institutes, 50-day remedial summer camps for classes 3 to 10 and improving state board examination’s quality by in-

creasing percentage of higher order questions. The chief minister and senior HRD ministry officials discussed the blueprint this week and decided to go ahead with its implementation, people familiar with the matter told ET. The blueprint offers a detailed diagnosis of the state’s school education system and “an actionable roadmap” to comprehensively overhaul it and provide quality education to every schoolgoer.

## THE REFORM BLUEPRINT

The reform road map, which will be taken forward under four heads, details a short term (0-6 months), medium-term (6-12 months) and long-term action plan (12 months plus). The document also calls for setting up a steering committee to set targets and review progress, quarterly review of the reform agenda by the CM, a dedicated four-six member management unit to prepare a detailed implementation plan.

● **Human Resource Management**  
Reform teacher education by derecognising institutions that fail

## Fundamental Causes of Concern

### Low enrollment

Out of 2.55 lakh, 66.81% are govt schools or receive aid from govt but only 46.6% study in these schools, below national average of 66.22%

### Dipping learning

Absolute achievement of students in different cycles of National Achievement Survey has been low, with very few students getting over 75% of questions correct

### Out of school children

Of the country’s 60.64 lakh out-of-school-children, 16.12 lakh (27%) are in UP

### High student absenteeism

44% of govt school students enrolled in primary classes are absent on a given day, more than 15.4 percentage points higher than the national average of 28.6%. The figure is 44.2% in upper primary classes, 17.45 percentage points higher than the national average of 28.6%

### High dropout rate

In access outcomes, NER at elementary level is 9 percentage points lower than all India average

to meet the regulator NCTE’s quality norms, redefine roles of District Institutes of Education and Training to focus only on in-service training, introduce subject-wise and demand-based teacher recruitment system. Check teacher absenteeism through biometric devices and app-based attendance and put up photographs of teachers on notice board. Design a transparent online teacher

transfer policy and rationalise subject and school-wise teacher posts, redeploy surplus teachers and reduce single teacher schools.

### ● Quality Interventions:

Technology-based review of classroom practices, focus on school leadership, co locate anganwadis with adjacent government school. Also identify bottom 25% districts

of the states based on NAS for classes 3, 5, 8 and 10 data. Introduce teaching at the right level (TaRL) remediation programme in classes 3 to 10 through a 50-day summer camp.

### ● Outcome Orientation

Adapt learning outcomes to NCERT norms, incorporate them in Right to Education Act rules, publicise them with posters at schools and train teachers in them. School self-evaluation methods to be encouraged and public accountability be brought in through senior management committees. Quality of state board exam to be improved by increasing percentage of higher order questions to 65% over five years.

### ● Key enablers

GIS mapping of schools, 100% Aadhaar coverage by August 31 for child tracking for midday meal scheme and enrolment, consolidation of neighbouring schools for better resourced composite schools, centralised midday meal kitchens. School bag burden to be reduced by printing semester-wise books.