

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) does not prescribe exact fee amounts. Instead, the Board's Affiliation Bye-Laws establish a regulatory framework that mandates transparency, prohibits profiteering, and explicitly defers the actual fee caps and hike limits to the respective State Government's regulations.

Core CBSE Fee Fixation Norms

Chapters 7 and 8 of the CBSE Affiliation Bye-Laws outline the foundational rules every affiliated school must follow:

Community Service, Not a Business: The school must not operate with a profit motive. Savings generated after meeting recurring and non-recurring expenses must be reinvested into the school's developmental funds.

No Capitation Fees: Charging capitation fees or demanding voluntary donations in exchange for admission is strictly prohibited and serves as grounds for disaffiliation.

SMC Approval: The School Management Committee (SMC) must formally approve the fee structure and any revisions before forwarding them to the governing Trust or Society.

Pro-Rata Dues: If a student leaves or migrates to another school, dues can only be collected up to the month of discontinuance, not up to the month the transfer certificate is requested.

Mid-Session Revisions Banned: Fees cannot be revised during the middle of an academic session.

State-Level Compliance

Because CBSE defers to the "Appropriate Government," schools must map their fee structures to state-specific legislation. For institutions operating under frameworks like the *Maharashtra Educational Institutions (Regulation of Fee) Act, 2011*, specific guardrails apply:

PTA Involvement: Proposed fee structures must be submitted to the Parent-Teachers Association (PTA) Executive Committee at least six months before the new academic year begins.

Regulated Hikes: Schools that do not declare a long-term fee structure at admission are generally restricted to a maximum fee increase of 15% once every two years*.

Admission Fee Limits: The admission fee is typically capped at the equivalent of one month's tuition fee. Furthermore, a student cannot be charged an admission fee again when transitioning from primary to secondary sections within the same school.

Standard Fee Structure Format

To ensure transparent accounting and compliance with state education departments, CBSE schools typically format their fee schedules under the following distinct heads:

Fee Head Frequency Permissible Scope

Registration Fee One-time A nominal processing charge for the prospectus and application.

Admission Fee One-time Charged only upon initial entry to the school.

Tuition Fee Monthly Quarterly Covers core academic instruction and teacher salaries.

Term Annual Fee Annually Funds library access, laboratories, digital tools, and sports.

Caution Money One-time A refundable security deposit for school property. Must be returned upon leaving.

Optional Services As opted Transport, meals, or specialized excursions. Cannot be made mandatory.