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## MCD begins process to hire special educators

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**New Delhi:** Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has started the process for recruitment of more than 1,000 special educators.

"We have sent letters to them to submit the required papers for verification. We are hopeful 1,150 teachers will join the schools from the next session," said a senior MCD officer.

A limited number of special educators has made it challenging for the schools to address the requirements of students with special needs. According to MCD officials, at present, about 500 out of 1,530 schools have special educators.

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 recommends that such educators are required to accommodate children with special needs. The educators, it adds, may assess the students in the early years to identify various disabilities.

As per procedure, the Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board recruits the teachers after which MCD conducts their verification and deposes them.

Last year, Delhi high court had directed the erstwhile three municipal corporations to expedite the process of filling vacancies of special educators before December 2022.

"The verification is expected to be completed by the end of November, after which the appointments will be finalised," added the MCD officer.

The court had earlier expressed concern over the large number of vacancies — 1,126 — of special educators in MCD schools and asked the authorities to view the matter from "the perspective of underprivileged children and, then, perhaps, tweak the policy to cater to their needs".

At the time, the east, south and north Delhi municipal corporations assured the court that once the results are declared for the posts, vacancies will be identified and duly advertised.

The court had directed the corporations "to identify leftover vacancies and expected slots/vacancies qua the post of special educator (primary), which would be available till December 2022, at the earliest, though not later than four weeks from the date of the declaration of result".