

SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION:

School consolidation is an act of merging relatively smaller schools with the nearby schools in order to give good facilities and minimize the multi-grade teaching. The model minimizes the total relocation distance in this process of consolidation to consolidate schools within an access range allowing transfers only within D1 distance of the current school and ensures that no two small schools are relatively near to each other, being D2 distance away. All schools above an enrolment of Nmax always remain open and below Nmax are candidates for consolidation.

The priority of the Andhra Pradesh government is to move towards a two-tier school education system primary (grades 1-5) and high schools (grades 6-10). In the current scenario, there are primary schools, primary and upper primary schools (grades 1-7 and 1-8) and high schools (grades 6-10). The current high schools are consolidated first using the criteria for high schools. The upper primary part (grades 6-8) of the primary and upper primary part is then consolidated with this set to form an intermediate set of sets where the upper primary part (grades 6-7) of primary and upper primary schools are then consolidated with them using their criteria. In this way, all upper primary part of the schools can be consolidated to either high schools or other upper primary schools. This order of consolidation is important to obtain the optimum result. The primary part of the schools are then consolidated using consolidation criteria of the primary schools. The consolidation criteria is given in the following table with the flowcharts following them. In case of primary schools, inter panchayat transfers are not allowed and for UP and high schools inter mandal transfers are not allowed.

Table 1: Consolidation criteria for different type of schools

School type	Nmax	D1	D2
High schools	50	5km	5km
UP part of P+UP schools (grades 6-8)	40	3km	3km
UP part of P+UP schools (grades 6-7)	30	3km	3km
Primary schools	30	1km	1km







