

Difference between CBSE and ICSE board in India

	CBSE	ICSE
About	The Central Board of Secondary Education (abbreviated as CBSE) is a Board of Education for public and private schools, under the Union Government of India CBSE affiliates all Kendriya Vidyalayas, all Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, private schools, and most of the schools approved by central government of India.	The Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) is an examination conducted by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE). It is a Non-Government, national level, private Board of School education in India that was founded in year 1956 to set and adapt University of Cambridge's examination system to India.
No. of Schools	14808	1000
Areas of operation	25 Countries including India, Malaysia, Dubai etc	India, UAE, Singapore, Indonesia.
Examination conducted	All India Senior School Certificate Examination (AISSCE) for Class 10 and 12 Entrance exams: 1) IIT-JEE 2) NEET	This body conducts 3 examinations, namely 1. ICSE (Indian certificate secondary education) exam for class 10 2. ISC (Indian school certificate) exam for class 12 3. CVE (Certificate for vocational education) exam for class 12
Medium of instruction	Hindi and English both are given equal emphasis	Hindi is not recommended as a medium of instruction.
Board recognition	Recognized by Indian government. A certificate from the Central Board of Education is recognized throughout the country, in all colleges and academic centres.	Certification under the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education board will be recognized around the world, particularly by foreign schools and universities when compared to the central board's local margin
Curriculum	The syllabus prepared by CBSE is more suitable for qualifying in various entrance examinations, including the medical and engineering professional exams.	The syllabus of ICSE is more detailed and requires the student to remember a lot.
Who can appear for the exams?	The board allows both regular candidates, who study in CBSE schools, as well as private candidates from non-affiliated schools to appear in the exams.	Contrary to this, ICSE does not allow a candidate who has not been studying in an ICSE affiliated school to appear for the exams.
Advantage over competitive examination	All major competitive examinations in India are based on the CBSE syllabus.	Due to the emphasis laid on English in ICSE, students from this board may hold a slight edge over other students in exams like TOEFL.
Syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CBSE is extremely focused on science and maths with a lot of attention paid to the application of knowledge. The CBSE syllabus also does not lay as much emphasis on core English knowledge. CBSE is comparatively easier than ICSE. An average student practising under an CBSE board will face six subjects/examinations from the sixth grade. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CISCE (ICSE) is more balanced with equal focus on language, arts and science. ICSE syllabus can facilitate deeper understanding and better life skills and analytical skills. Students may find the syllabus to be too extensive for their liking. An average student practising under an ICSE board will face thirteen subjects/examinations from the sixth grade.
Pros	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The diversity factor in schools with CBSE board is high as more students from different backgrounds are likely to end up in the same class. Quality of Content (No Errors/ No Printing Mistakes) in Textbooks. Continuous And Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE), a new system of education implemented by CBSE for students of sixth to tenth grades. It removes the marking system and introduces grading system based on a series of curricular and extracurricular activities. Easy to find tutors, books and activities for all classes. Centralized system for transferring across all CBSE schools. Numerous talent search examinations and scholarship exams such as SSTSE, NSEB, and NSEC etc. held at local and national level base their content on CBSE syllabus just because it is more prevalent. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Course curriculum is wide, covering a range of topics to explore overall growth of students. CISCE prefers to give more practical Knowledge and focus more on analytical skills. Subject selection options available to students to follow their liking for a particular subject. The CISCE board has equal focus on languages, science and art and encourages students to choose across diverse topics / subjects for their Class-12 exam.
Cons	There aren't enough options to explore in the field of Arts and Literature.	Students may find syllabus a bit cumbersome.