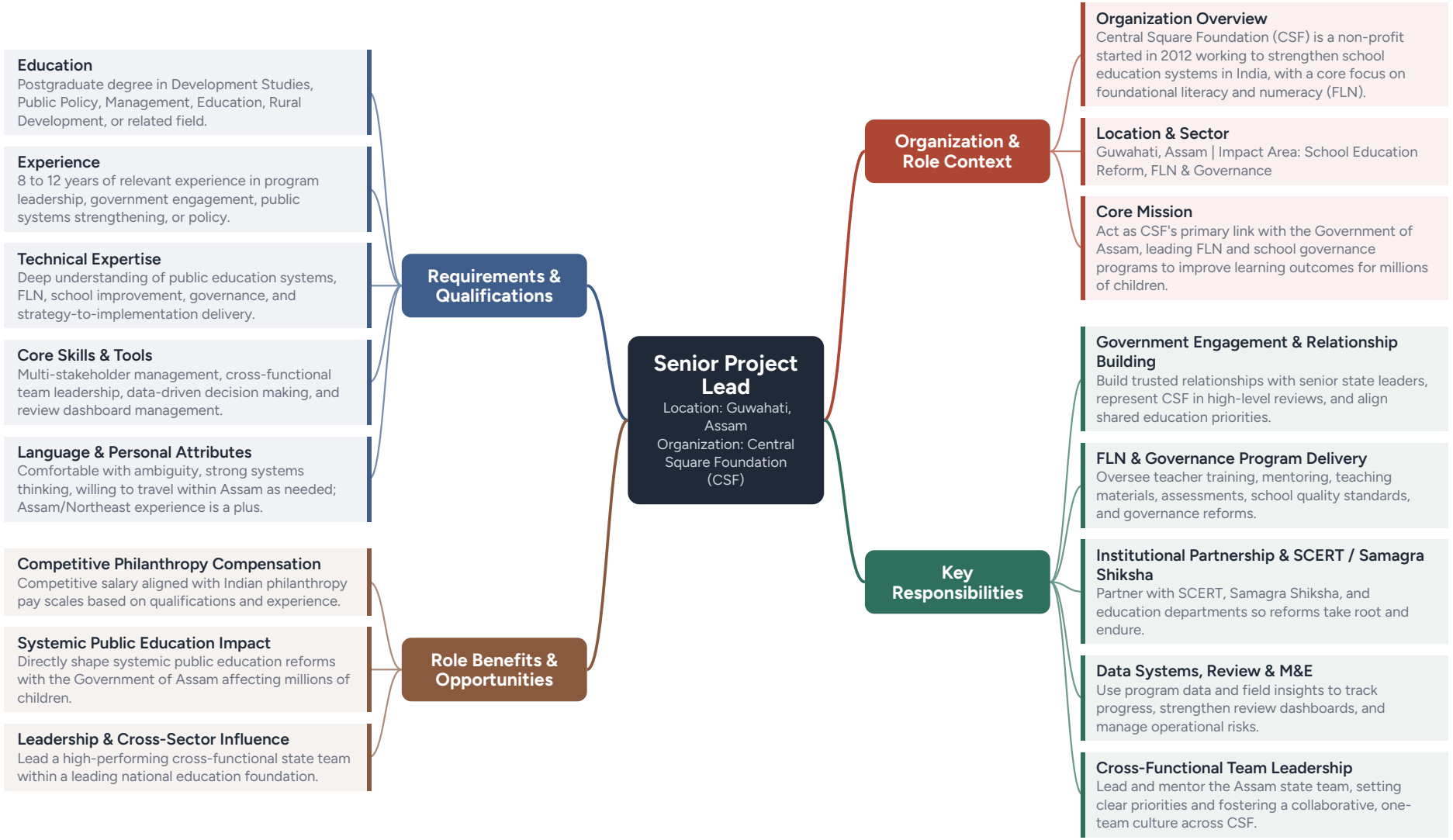
Central Square Foundation

Senior Project Lead in Guwahati | Central Square Foundation (CSF)

Guwahati, Assam · full-time · lead level · Competitive

Application Assist →

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Skills this role needs

Government engagement	Programme leadership	Foundational literacy and numeracy	Team management	Education systems reform

Job description

Central Square Foundation (CSF)

Central Square Foundation (CSF) is a non-profit started in 2012 that wants every child in India to get a good school education. Its main focus is making sure young children learn to read, write and do basic maths well. CSF works side by side with state governments to make their school systems stronger, using evidence to guide what changes. In Assam, it supports Mission NIPUN Axom, the state's drive for early learning, and helps make schools more accountable for quality and learning. This role sits within CSF's Assam State Team, which works with the Government of Assam on foundational learning and school governance.

Role

As Senior Project Lead, you will be CSF's main link with the Government of Assam and lead the state's work on foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN), school governance and other education goals as they grow. You will build strong relationships with senior officials, agree on shared priorities and turn them into plans that work on the ground. You will also lead the state team and help CSF's different teams work as one, with the aim of improving learning for millions of children.

Responsibilities

- Build trusted relationships with senior government and department leaders, and represent CSF in high-level reviews and meetings.
- Work with government partners so they own and support the priorities you agree together.
- Stay in regular contact with government and partner organisations to clear roadblocks and keep work moving.
- Co-create state plans and workplans with the government and CSF leadership across FLN, school governance and other agreed areas.
- Spot system-wide problems, risks and opportunities, and turn priorities into clear plans, milestones and review steps.
- Bring lessons from other states and sectors to improve programme design and delivery.
- Oversee FLN work such as teacher training, mentoring, teaching materials, assessments and monitoring.
- Support school governance work, including policy changes, school quality standards and accountability systems.
- Partner with SCERT, Samagra Shiksha and other departments so reforms take root and last.
- Use programme data, field insights and feedback to track progress and guide changes in course.
- Strengthen dashboards and review systems, and report progress, risks and key decisions to government and CSF leaders.
- Lead and grow the cross-functional state team by setting clear priorities, sharing out work, supporting each person's growth and building a one-team culture across CSF.

Requirements

- Postgraduate degree in development studies, public policy, management, education, rural development or a related field
- 8 to 12 years of relevant experience in programme leadership, government engagement, public systems strengthening, policy, advocacy or social sector work
- Proven ability to work with government systems, ideally at the state level with senior officials, and to move from strategy to implementation
- Experience managing teams and multi stakeholder programmes, including cross functional coordination
- Experience in education, especially foundational learning, school improvement, school governance, assessment or system reform, is an advantage; candidates from other development sectors with strong transferable experience are also welcome

- Experience working in Assam or the Northeast is a plus, though not required
- Strong understanding of public systems, comfortable with ambiguity, and willing to travel within Assam as needed

Benefits

- Competitive pay in line with Indian philanthropy pay scales, based on your experience and qualifications.
- Work closely with the Government of Assam on systems that reach millions of children.
- Bring your cross-sector experience into one of India's most important public reform efforts.
- Lead a cross-functional team within a national education foundation.

Apply

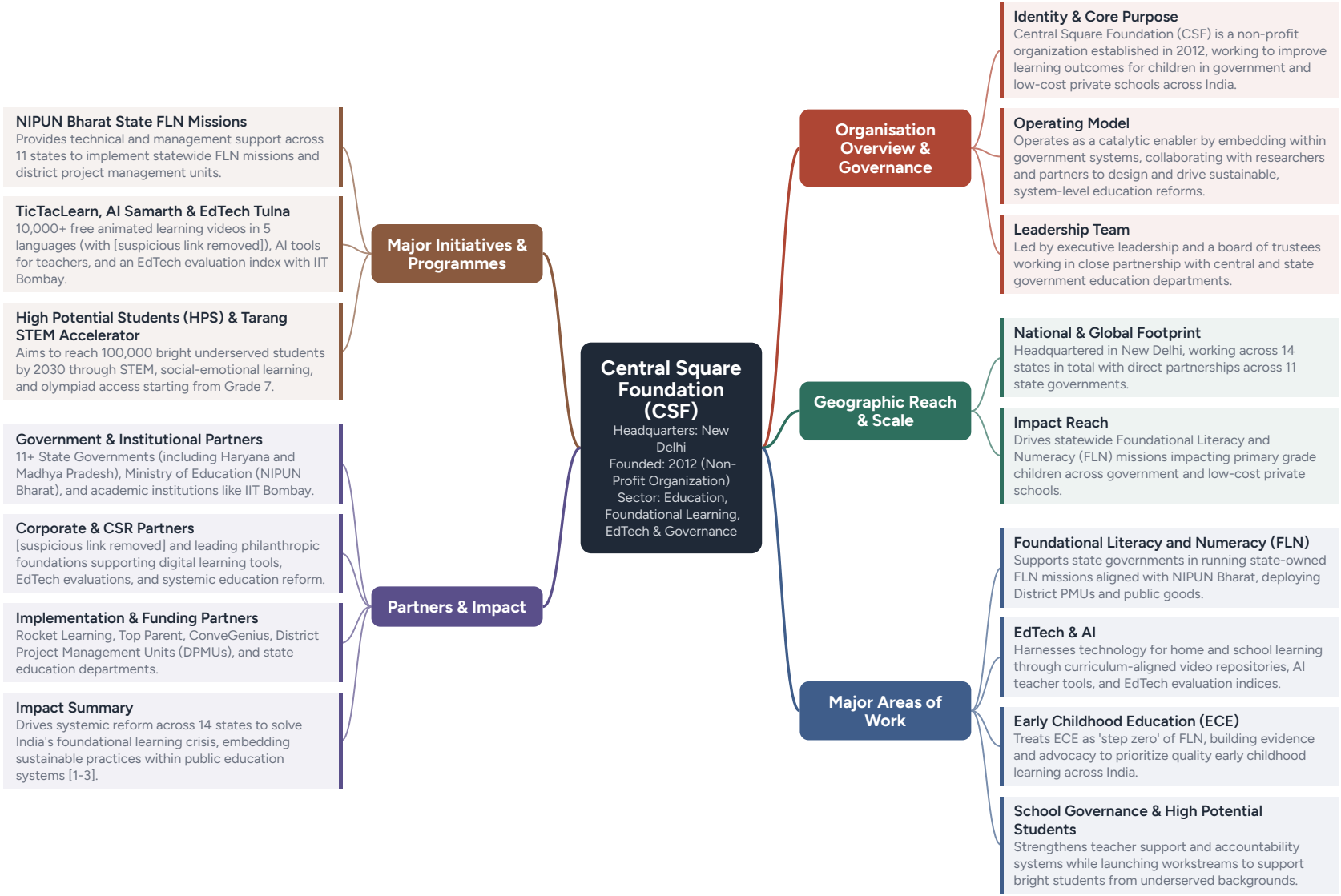
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About the organisation

Central Square Foundation

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About Central Square Foundation

Central Square Foundation

YouTube Video

Central Square Foundation (CSF) is a non-profit organization established in 2012, headquartered in New Delhi. It works to improve learning outcomes for children in government and low-cost private schools across India, with a focus on children from low-income backgrounds. CSF operates as a catalytic enabler not running schools directly, but working with governments, researchers, and the education ecosystem to design and drive system-level reforms that last.

Over 13 years, CSF has become one of India's most influential education policy and practice organizations, collaborating with 11 state governments on statewide Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) missions and working across 14 states in total.

India has a foundational learning crisis. According to ASER 2024, 79% of Grade 3 students in rural government schools cannot read Grade 2 text, and 72.9% cannot do Grade 2 level arithmetic. Children who miss these basics by Grade 3 rarely catch up and risk dropping out altogether. CSF believes solving this FLN by Grade 3 for every child is the single most important lever for long-term equity and growth.

What CSF Does

- Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN): CSF's flagship area. It supports state governments in designing and running state-owned FLN missions aligned with the national NIPUN Bharat initiative. CSF sets direction at the national level, provides technical and management support to state teams, creates public goods (tools, frameworks, resources) freely available to all practitioners, and drives district-level implementation through District Project Management Units (DPMUs). CSF has worked with 11 state governments on this.
- EdTech & AI: CSF works to harness technology for student learning, both at home and in school. Key initiatives include: TicTacLearn (10,000+ free curriculum-aligned animated videos in 5 Indian languages, created with Google.org, adopted by 10 states); AI Samarth (AI-powered tools for teachers and students); Bharat Survey for EdTech (BaSE) (a national survey to understand EdTech usage and effectiveness); EdTech Tulna (an evaluation index for EdTech solutions, built with IIT Bombay); and support to government EdTech procurement in Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. CSF also supports at-home learning tools like Rocket Learning, Top Parent, and ConveGenius.
- Early Childhood Education (ECE): CSF treats ECE as "step zero" of FLN the foundation before formal schooling. It builds evidence and advocacy for prioritizing quality, evidence-based approaches to early learning across India.
- School Governance: CSF works to build an enabling environment in both government and private schools supporting better school management, teacher support systems, and accountability structures that allow learning outcomes to improve sustainably.
- High Potential Students (HPS): Launched in 2025, this is a new workstream focused on identifying and supporting bright students from underserved backgrounds before they are left behind. India's school system has ~25 crore children, many of whom are high-potential but lack access to the right support, opportunities, or identification before Grade 10. CSF aims to reach 1,00,000 such students by 2030 through STEM and social-emotional learning programs starting from Grade 7, partnerships with model schools and states, and access to olympiads and high-growth career pathways. Tarang STEM Accelerator is a key initiative under this program.

CSF's work is evidence-led and system-focused. Every intervention is grounded in rigorous research and aims to build government ownership so that improvements outlast CSF's involvement. Rather than parallel delivery systems, CSF embeds itself within government structures and works to change how the system itself functions from curriculum design and teacher training to assessment and district management.

CSF actively hires people passionate about education reform prior education sector experience is not required. Roles span policy, research, program management, EdTech, communications, and more.

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