

FINLAND

Question	Data					Academic Year of Reference	Notes and sources used
	Public Sector *		Private Sector		Total		
1. Number of compulsory school aged pupils (including those with SEN)	543,980		12,490		556,470	2007/2008	Source: 'Statistics Finland'. * The national core curriculum emphasizes the curricular unity of basic education for the whole nine-year period. Class teachers teach in grades 1 st to 6 th and subject teachers in grades 7 th to 9 th .
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary			
	352,519	191,461	4,884	7,606			
2. Number of compulsory school aged pupils who have SEN (in all educational settings)	44,275 **		- ***		44,275 *	2007/2008	Source: 'Statistics Finland'. * Learners with special needs are classified into two basic categories: 1. Those with an official decision (44,275). 2. Those without an official decision. This second group includes learners with minor learning difficulties (dyslexia, maths, speech difficulties etc). There are 128,641 (2006/2007) pupils who receive part time special education. *** This data includes pupils above compulsory school age. No separate data is available. However, in practice there are very few pupils above compulsory school age. ** No data is available for pupils with SEN in the private sector. This applies to questions 2 to 5. Only very few private sector schools provide special needs education for those pupils who have official decision.
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary			
	25,407	18,868	-	-			
3. Pupils with SEN in segregated special schools	7,126		-		7,126	2007/2008	Source: 'Statistics Finland'.
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary			
	4,084	3,042	-	-			
4. Pupils with SEN in segregated	14,489		-				Source: 'Statistics Finland'.

special classes in mainstream schools	Public Sector		Private Sector		Total	Reference	Source: 'Statistics Finland'.
	14,489		-				
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary			
	9,156	5,333	-	-	14,489	2007/2008	
5. Pupils with SEN in fully inclusive settings	Public Sector		Private Sector		Total	Academic Year of Reference	Source: 'Statistics Finland'. * 11,809 pupils study full time in mainstream classes (7,830 primary and 3,979 secondary). 10,851 pupils study part of their school day in mainstream classes (4,337 primary and 6,514 secondary). There is no exact data as to the proportion of their school day they study in inclusive settings.
	22,660		-				
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary			
	12,167	10,493	-	-	22,660 *	2007/2008	
6. Compulsory age phase	Age 7 to 16 years. The national core curriculum emphasizes the curricular unity of basic education for the whole nine-year period. In grades 1 to 6 pupils are 7 to 13 years old and in grades 7 to 9 they are 14 to 16 years old. Compulsory school age continues until 17 years, if the pupil does not complete basic education before that. Approximately 0.4 % of all pupils repeat a class.						
7. Clarification of Public – Private sector education	Almost all pupils study in public sector schools and pupils in private schools study according the same national curriculum as pupils in public schools. Almost all private schools get state subsidy.						
8. Legal Definition of SEN	Basic education is governed by the Basic Education Act (628/1998), the Basic Education Decree (852/1998), the Government Decree on the objectives and time allocation in basic education (1435/2001) and the National Curriculum 2004 given by National Board of Education. Learners have special educational needs when their possibilities for growth, development or learning are decreased by the reason of disability, sickness or decreased working order. Learners with need of psychological or social support or at the risk at these areas have right to support for the learning. Pupils with minor learning or adjustment difficulties have the right to receive part-time special needs education in conjunction with mainstream instruction. If a child cannot cope in mainstream education due to disability, illness, delayed development, emotional disorder or some other similar, he or she may be admitted to special needs education. Special education is provided primarily in conjunction with mainstream instruction or in a special class or at some other appropriate location.						