

FINLAND

Question	Data					Notes and sources used	
1. Number of compulsory school aged pupils (<i>including those with SEN</i>)	Public Sector		Private Sector		Total	Academic Year of Reference	Source: Statistics Finland. WERA web reports: https://www.data.oph.fi/wera/wera
	533,897		12,741 *				
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary			
	346,082	187,815	5,013	7,728	546,638	2008/2009	
2. Number of compulsory school aged pupils who have SEN (<i>in all educational settings</i>)	Public Sector		Private Sector		Total	Academic Year of Reference	Source: Statistics Finland. In Finland learners with special needs are classified into two basic categories: 1. Those with an official decision (45,493). The data presented here refers to pupils with an official decision. 2. Those without an official decision. This second group includes learners with minor learning difficulties (dyslexia, maths, speech difficulties etc.). There are 126,288 (2007/08) pupils who receive part-time special needs education.
	45,252		241				
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary			
	26,270	18,982	100	141	45,493	2008/2009	
3. Pupils with SEN in segregated special schools	Public Sector		Private Sector		Total	Academic Year of Reference	Source: Statistics Finland.
	6,541		241				
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary			
	3,872	2,669	100	141	6,782	2008/2009	
4. Pupils with SEN in segregated special classes in mainstream schools	Public Sector		Private Sector		Total	Academic Year of Reference	Source: Statistics Finland.
	14,574		-				
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary			
	9,206	5,368	-	-	14,574	2008/2009	
5. Pupils with SEN in fully inclusive settings	Public Sector		Private Sector		Total	Academic Year of Reference	Source: Statistics Finland. Primary: 8,446 pupils study whole time in mainstream classes and 4,746 pupils study part of the school day in mainstream classes. Secondary: 4,336 pupils study whole time in mainstream classes and 6,609 pupils study part
	24,137		-				
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary			
	13,192	10,945	-	-	24,137	2008/2009	



							of the school day in mainstream classes. There is no data on what proportion of the school day pupils are in this setting.
6. Compulsory age phase	7–16 years.						
7. Clarification of Public - Private sector education	In Finland private schools are financed by the government and their curriculum is based on National Core Curriculum. Almost all pupils are in public sector.						
8. Legal Definition of SEN	<p>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.</p> <p>Learners have special educational needs when their possibilities for growth, development or learning are decreased due to disability, sickness or decreased functioning. Learners with need of psychological or social support or at risk in these areas have the right to support for learning.</p> <p>Pupils with minor learning or adjustment difficulties have the right to receive part-time special needs education in conjunction with mainstream instruction.</p> <p>If a child cannot cope in mainstream education due to disability, illness, delayed development, emotional disorder or some other similar special need, 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.</p> <p>Source: Statistics Finland.</p>						