

The Learning Environment

part of the
national quality assessment system

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Content of the Work-Shop

- Background and information about the system
- Presentation of the system
- The results of the survey including analysis
- How the system is supposed to be used

Norwegian Education Act

- . The Norwegian Education Act was in 2003 extended by a new section: "9a. The pupils' school environment", which gives "All pupils in primary and secondary schools [...] the right to a good physical and psycho-social environment that promotes health, well-being and learning. [...]"

The Pupil Inspectors

The Pupil Inspectors (Pupil Investigation) and the Apprentice Inspectors are Internet-based surveys where pupils in both primary, lower secondary and pupils and apprentices in the upper secondary school assess different sides of the learning environment. The survey is compulsory for pupils in the seventh year in primary school and tenth years in lower secondary education and in the first year in upper secondary education. School owners and school leaders should stimulate the use of the Pupil Inspectors and the Apprentice Inspectors in practice-oriented development work in order to develop the learning environment.

Younger pupils may also participate - 2005

5.th. grade – 13,3 %

6.th. grade – 16,7 %

Skoleporten.no

- Skoleporten is a website that provides data from primary and secondary schools in Norway. These data are meant as resources for local work on issues concerning evaluation and development. The website also offers resources to contribute to interpretation, assessment and development within the schools. The main target persons for the website are school principals, head teachers and school administrators and politicians. But also parents, pupils and the public in general will hopefully find the website useful.

Results from the Pupil Inspectors 2005

- Most pupils feel comfortable at school and they feel being socially included, but there are pupils who are not socially included.
- 4,5 % of the pupils are being bullied once or twice a week, among them are there more boys than girls.
- The pupils think that the teachers take them seriously and treat them with respect, but on the other hand the students are critical to the teachers ability to give them challenging tasks.
- The pupils do not think that they have enough pupils participation, concerning both subject matters and rules and regulations at school.
- Adapted instruction remains a great challenge.

The intention of the survey

- The survey is supposed to act as a dual-purpose tool:
 - It is considered of great importance that the pupils are given a possibility to express their opinion on matters that are important for them in their learning conditions.
 - The other purpose is to give the schools a pedagogical tool where you can see changes over time – and also have a tool which gives the possibility to analyze systematic coherence between the pupils learning environment and their meeting with schools and their learning outcome.

Use of the system

- The system is based on systematic analysis and adaption of learning based on these results and other results. It is important that all members of the school system are able to discuss the results, both within each school including pupils and parents and outside the schools. How can a school adress the issues shown in this survey and in other surveys?

Further reading in English

- http://www.utdanningsdirektoratet.no/templates/udir/TM_Artikkel.aspx?id=1365

http://www.utdanningsdirektoratet.no/upload/Brosjyrer/UDIR_LEARN_ENVIRON_vedlegg.pdf

Other useful links:

<http://www.skoleporten.no>