

The Swedish education system

**a decentralized system
managed by overall goals and rules**



National level

parliament, ministry and agencies

Compulsory school and Upper secondary school

- Education Act
- ordinances
- curricula
- syllabi
- inspection and thematic quality evaluation
- follow up and evaluation

Higher Education Institutions

- Higher Education Act
- ordinance
- qualification descriptors
- entitlement to award degrees
- follow up and evaluation

Education for everyone

- **all children shall have equal access to education**
- **education is free of charge**
- **nine years compulsory schooling – begins at the age of 7**
- **98 percent of the students start upper secondary school**
- **11 percent start higher education directly after upper secondary school, 45 percent start before 25 years old**

Local level

municipality and authority for independent school – and schools

- **responsible for run the schools – *all* students shall have all the requirements to reach the national goals**
- **distribute resources and organize their education**
- **recruit school heads and teachers**
- **choose their own work methods etc.**
- **follow up and evaluation on local level**

Type of schools

- **compulsory school (grades 1-9)**
 - all students
- **special school (grades 1-10)**
 - deafness or impaired hearing
 - visual impairment and additional disabilities
 - severe speech and language disabilities
- **school for students with learning disabilities (grades 1-9)**
 - learning disabled students
- **Sami school (grades 1-6)**
 - special for Sami children

Upper secondary level

- **upper secondary school (3 years)**
- **upper secondary education for students with learning disabilities (4 years)**

Higher Education Institutions

- **responsible for run initial teacher education**
- **responsible for run special teacher education**
- **a part of continuous teacher development – often commissioned education**
- **compulsory training for new school heads**
- **are free to organize their education and decide about course syllabi, work methods etc.**

A new Initial Teacher Training

- **lead to greater clarity regarding three important components:**
 - studies in the subjects to be taught
 - school placement (30 higher education credits)
 - educational science core (60 higher education credits)
- **Higher Education Institutions wishing to organize teacher education must apply to the Swedish National Agency for Higher Education for entitlement to award the new education or, in most cases, a part of the new education**

Four new degrees

- **pre-school education (210 higher education credits)**
- **primary school education (180-240 higher education credits)**
 - pre-school class and grades 1-3 (240 credits)
 - grades 4-6 (240 credits)
 - in out-of-school care (180 credits)
- **subject education (270-330 higher education credits)**
 - grades 7-9 – three subjects (270 credits)
 - upper secondary school – two subjects (300-330 credits)
- **vocational education (90 higher education credits)**
 - *before teacher education*: advanced and relevant vocational knowledge

Other paths to degrees in education and pre-school education

- people with other professional experience, and
- people with sufficient knowledge in for instance *one* subject...

can take a supplementary teacher education programme comprise 90 higher education credits

Degree in special needs education – extended to include specialisations for

- **deafness or impaired hearing**
- **visual impairment**
- **severe speech and language disabilities**
- **learning disabilities**

To remember when you talk about the Swedish education system

- overall goals and rules at national level
- Parliament, Ministry and Agencies
- a decentralized system – local level is responsible for run schools or higher education institutions
- all children have right to education adapted to his or her preconditions
- very qualified teachers makes difference for *all* students