

# The school is for your child

A booklet about the new curricula and the new Education Act, specifically for those with children in the compulsory school, the compulsory school for learning disabilities, the special school or the Sami school



*Skolverket*

## You are important

You know your child best. This is why it is important that you and the school your child is attending enjoy good relations and work together for the benefit of your child's development. Through this cooperation, you increase your child's opportunities to progress as far as possible, both in terms of knowledge and social development.

If you are familiar with the tasks of the school, this will enable you to work together with your child's school. This booklet provides information about some of the changes now being introduced in the school, which will have an effect on your child's schooling.

### **THE TERMS PARENTS AND GUARDIANS**

Normally, it is the case that one or both parents of a child are the guardians. The guardian is responsible for the child, and ensuring that the child receives care, security and a good upbringing. In general, a child's guardian always has the right to receive all the information concerning the child or pupil in school, including what is covered by confidentiality. A parent who is not a guardian does not have the right to receive confidential information concerning the child.

## Towards the same goals

The Education Act and the curricula are intended to ensure that all pupils receive equivalent schooling of good quality irrespective of where they live and what school, or type of school they attend. The same guidelines apply to all schools. The Riksdag has decided on a new Education Act that applies to all education for children and youth in Sweden.

The Education Act states, amongst other things, that all pupils should participate in the education if they do not have valid reasons for being absent. You as the parent have the responsibility for ensuring that your child attends school. If you have not notified the school that your child will be absent, and your child is absent without a valid reason, you should according to the Education Act be informed about this by the school on the same day.



If you wish your child to have time off school, you should turn to the headteacher of the school. It is the headteacher who decides on these matters. It is also the headteacher that you should turn to if you should wish your child to be exempted from some compulsory parts of the teaching. The scope for such exemptions has become less under the new Education Act. The headteacher may only approve applications for time off school, if there are "special reasons", and this only applies to specific occasions during the school year, and are not permitted if they limit the pupil's opportunities of fulfilling the knowledge requirements. However, you have the right to appeal a negative decision to the administrative court.

The organiser (municipality or the board of the independent school) have immediate responsibility for the school. If any problems occur that you and the school staff or the head of the school are unable to solve yourselves, you can get in touch with the school organiser. Each organiser should have documented routines on how complaints with regard to the education should be received and investigated. You can ask for information about this from your child's school. The new Education Act contains a number of new provisions on what action the school can take where a pupil is disruptive, behaves inappropriately, or has committed a more serious breach of the rules. In addition to sending pupils out of the classroom for parts of a lesson and receiving detention, a headteacher can in some cases issue a pupil with a written warning. The warning should contain information on what will happen if the pupil does not change his/her behaviour. It could mean that a pupil may be temporarily moved to another school.

The new Education Act allows the headteacher to suspend a pupil in the compulsory school, the special school, and the Sami school where this is necessary with regard to the safety of other pupils, and for general order and discipline if other measures have not been successful. Suspension from the school should be for no more than one week at a time, and a maximum of two occasions per term. Pupils have the right to receive compensation for the teaching they have missed, and you as the guardian have the right to appeal the headteacher's decision about suspension to the administrative court.

## New curricula

With the Education Act as its starting point, the curricula for the compulsory school, special school, the school for learning disabilities and the Sami school have been rewritten so that each school form has its own curriculum. All schools, both municipal, independent and state schools are required to follow the curriculum for their respective school forms. By reading the curriculum, you will get to know what the foundation values of the school are based on, and what the tasks and goals of the school are. The syllabuses and knowledge requirements for all subjects are related to the curriculum.

How schools choose to work can differ, but it is up to the individual school's management and staff to determine this together. Pupils should also be given the opportunity to participate in the school's work. As a parent, you can take part in this work through the meetings and development dialogues you are invited to, and you can also get in touch with your child's school to participate in other ways.

### THE CURRICULUM

The first part of the curriculum describes the fundamental values and tasks of the school. This stipulates that school activities should correspond to the democratic values of society, and that all who are working in the school should respect each person's intrinsic value and our shared environment.

The second part of the curriculum contains the overall goals and guidelines of the education. This sets out the norms, values, and knowledge that all pupils should have acquired by the time they have completed their schooling. Teaching in all subjects in the school should contribute to attaining these goals. The first two parts of the curriculum also apply with some minor exceptions to the preschool class and the leisure-time centre.

The third part contains the syllabuses and related knowledge requirements for all subjects.



## **SYLLABUSES AND KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENTS**

The syllabuses in each subject describe why the subject is taught in the school, the aims of the teaching, and the knowledge that your child should be given the opportunity of acquiring. The syllabuses also set out the core contents. This is the compulsory content that teaching in the subject should cover, but there is also scope for the individual school to supplement this.

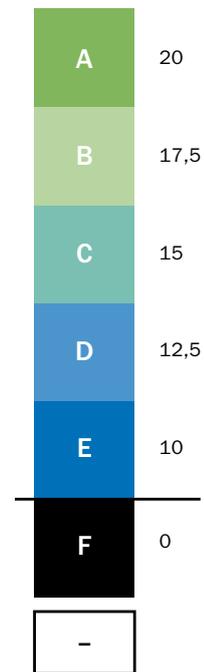
The knowledge requirements in the subject supplement the syllabus and are used to assess your child's progress. These requirements describe what pupils should know and be able to do in specific situations, and how this is expressed. The compulsory school sets out the knowledge requirements for acceptable knowledge at the end of school year 3 in the subjects of Swedish, Swedish as a second language, mathematics, social study subjects and science subjects. In school year 6, there are knowledge requirements for all subjects apart from modern languages, and in school year 9 there are knowledge requirements for all subjects.

In school year 3, knowledge requirements are used to assess if your child has attained a satisfactory level of knowledge. In school year 6 (from 2012/13) and school year 9, the knowledge requirements are used to assess your child's knowledge in the subject.



In the compulsory school for learning disabilities, the new grading scale has five levels: A, B, C, D and E. Grade F or the use of a dash (–) is not used in the grading scale. If a pupil in the school for learning disabilities does not attain the requirements for grade E, or where there is no basis for making an assessment due to absenteeism, a grade will not be awarded for the subject.

In order to receive grade A, C or E, the appropriate knowledge requirements should be satisfied in their entirety. In order to receive grade B, the knowledge requirements for grade C and most of A must be satisfied. Similarly, to be awarded grade D, all of the knowledge requirements for grade E and most of those for grade C must be satisfied. If you or your child are unsure of the reasons for a specific grade, under the new Education Act you have the right to receive information about this.



### GRADES FROM YEAR 6

As of autumn 2012, grades will be awarded from school year 6, and thereafter for each term up to and including the final grade in year 9. The grade in a term should be set on the basis of the knowledge which pupils have acquired in that term. Assessment in year 6 should be based on the knowledge requirements of year 6. Starting in school year 7, the assessment is based on the knowledge requirements for year 9.



## Assessment and the personal development dialogue

To ensure that your child is developing in accordance with the overall goals of the curriculum, and the long-term goals for each subject, it is important that the school coordinates its work together with the home. During the school year, teachers make ongoing assessments of your child's learning and development. You receive information about this at least once a term when you and your child meet the teacher or the form teacher to have a development dialogue.

An individual development plan is drawn up in connection with the development dialogue. The individual development plan should contain an assessment of your child's progress in the subjects they are studying. This should also contain a summary of the measures needed for your child to achieve the goals and develop as far as possible.

If you want further information about the development dialogue, individual development plans with written assessments (IUP) and action programs, you can find further information on the National Agency for Education's website:

[www.skolverket.se/iup](http://www.skolverket.se/iup)





## If you want to read the whole of the curriculum?

You can order or download the curriculum from the National Agency  
for Education's website at [www.skolverket.se](http://www.skolverket.se)

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