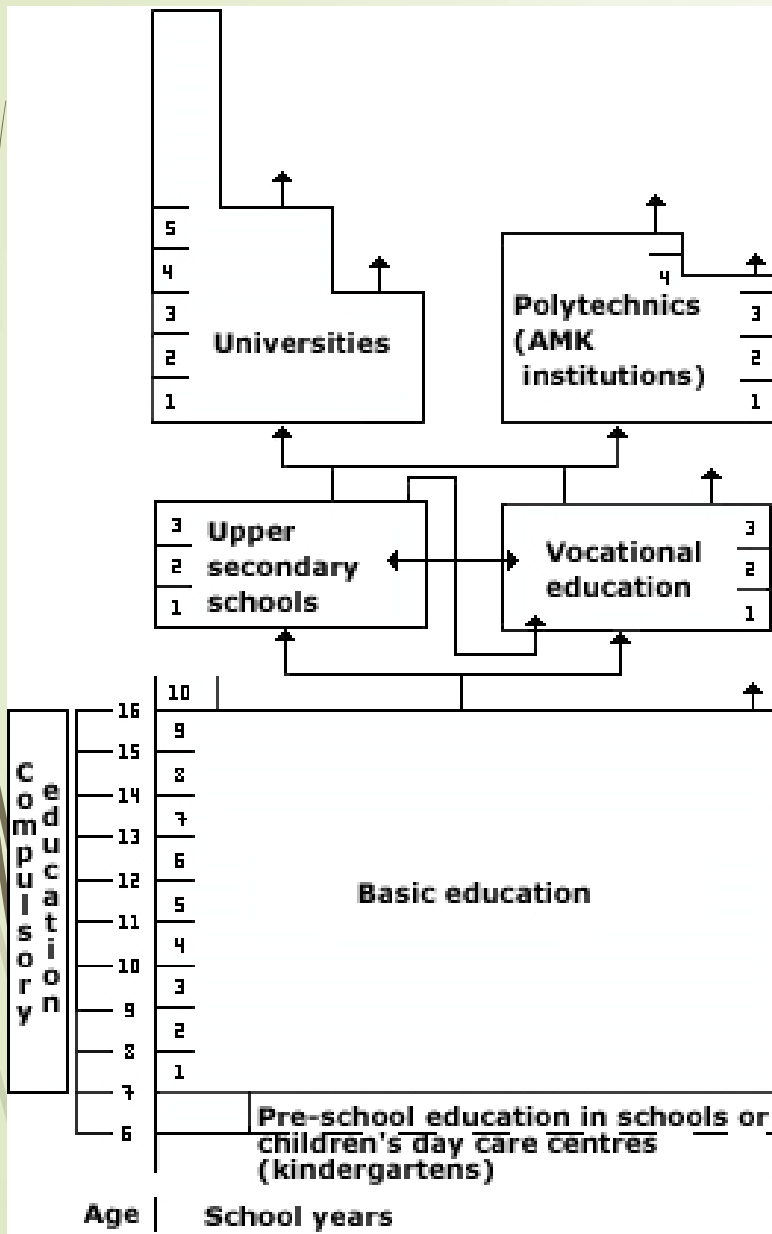




Finnish Education system

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Finnish education system



- 2 % of pupils have to repeat a year.
- 0,5 % of pupils don't complete basic education.
- 94 % continue to secondary education (straight after basic education).
 - 51 % to upper secondary schools
 - 41 % to vocational education
 - 2 % to 10th grade

All schools are under state control (homogeneity)

Type of institution	Finland
Public	93.3 %
Government-dependent private	6.7 %
Independent private	-

Table 1: Type of education institutions in basic education and secondary education

- Languages taught as a mother tongue: official languages Finnish and Swedish, indigenous Sami languages (Inari Sami, Skolt Sami and Northern Sami), Roma and sign language as well as other languages (immigrants).
- Teaching hours (lessons):
 - Class teacher (1-6 grades): 19-24h/week
 - Subject teacher (7-9 grades): 18-24h/week
 - Teacher in upper secondary school: 16-23h/week

Education of the teachers and education administration staff

➤ Teacher education:

- Early childhood educators: Bachelor's degree in education.
- Class teachers (grades 1-6): Master's degree in education.
- Subject teachers (grades 7-9 and upper secondary school): Master's degree in the subject of teaching + pedagogical studies.

➤ Other education professionals:

- **Principals/headmasters:** Master's degree and teaching qualifications.
- **Education planning, coordination, administration etc. professionals:** Master's degree in educational sciences (general, adult education or some other area of specialisation in education sciences).



Salaries:

Early childhood educator: 2612 €/month

Class teacher (1-6 grades): 3530 €/month

Subject teacher (7-9 grades): 3459 €/month

Upper secondary school teacher: 4479 €/month

Teacher in vocational school: 4152 €/month

Principal/headmaster (basic education): 5395 €/month

Special teacher (basic education): 3695 €/month

Education planner: 3456 €/month

	School expectancy (years)	Expected years of higher education (total population)	Pupils and students as a % of population (aged 5-29)	Annual expenditure on public and private educational institutions per pupil/student (€)
European Union	17,6	2,9	59,0	6846,4 (5,3 % of GDP)
Finland	20,5 (2nd highest in EU)	4,5 (highest in EU)	66,1 (highest in EU)	7716,0 (7,1 % of GDP)

Table 2: Pupils and students in EU (Eurostat 2011, 2012, 2016)

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&plugin=0&language=en&pcode=tps00067>

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tps00052&plugin=1>

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3217494/7827738/KS-EI-16-001-EN-N.pdf/bbb5af7e-2b21-45d6-8358-9e130c8668ab>



Finnish education authorities

- Ministry of Education and Culture
- Finnish National Agency for Education (e. g. National Core Curriculum)
- Local authorities, which means usually **municipalities** (342 in Finland), are education providers.
 - Every municipality has education unit (education professionals) and education board (municipality politicians).
 - Municipalities are responsible in organizing education. They have a possibility to give decision making power to schools also.

Reasons to Finnish success in education

1. Economy/society based on information, knowledge and technology:

- Specially since 1990: 1. Collapse of traditional trade with the Soviet Union. 2. Economic recession and crisis.

-> New products and strategies

-> Strong pressure to schools

2. Equality:

- The creation of comprehensive school in the 1970s with the ideology to educate all students equally.

- Very small variation between schools.

- Students' social or economic background has a low impact on their performance.

- Taking care of every single student in heterogeneous groups (no differentiation or selection of pupils to schools).



Reasons to Finnish success in education

3. A system involving more than education

- Commitment to the well-being of all children: education, school transport, libraries, daily hot meal, health and dental services, guidance and psychological counselling and mental health service are free of charge.

4. Support for children with special needs

- Commitment to inclusion (even children who have the most severe intellectual disabilities).
- Focus on early diagnosis and intervention.
- Special teachers who are assigned to each school. Only 4 % of pupils are in special schools.

5. Social and cultural factors'

- Social cohesion and trust.
- High expectations

Reasons to Finnish success in education

6. Significant responsibility for teachers and students

- Teachers have responsibility to ensure well-being and high achievements of all the students.
- No external testing or monitoring -> Professional model of accountability. Trust of teachers expertise.
- High expectations and demands (from teachers, parents and society) to students to work hard and perform well.
- Students are expected to have active role in their own learning (independent work).

7. Teacher quality

- Teaching is very respected profession -> The best are selected to teacher education (10-15 % of all applicants).
- High commitment to work.