



Köpenhamn

The Swedish educational system

A compilation of information from Skolverket

The Swedish educational system in brief

Your child can attend preschool from the time he or she is 1 year old. Play is an important element of preschool.

Note: New law from autumn 2018 for children from the age of 6. It is compulsory for children to begin in a preschool class.

Preschool class is a separate type of school that involves a large component of creative work and play. Preschool class is a compulsory type of school and is free of charge. All children attend comprehensive school from about the age of 7. Comprehensive school is compulsory, and compulsory schooling applies for years 1-9.

Most young people then attend upper secondary school for three years. New arrivals who have received a permanent residence permit are entitled to begin their upper secondary education before the end of the spring term in the year they turn 20; for asylum seekers this limit is the year they turn 18. However, there are also certain requirements for recognized grades from earlier education. Upper secondary school prepares pupils for university or university college, or for going on to employment without further education.

Preschool

Preschool is supposed to be a fun, safe and instructive period. The children shall have the possibility to grow and develop through playing, creating and excursing – on their own, in groups and together with adults.

Who goes to preschool?

Preschool is not mandatory. The municipality shall offer preschool for children from the age of 1 when – parents are working or studying and – when parents are unemployed or on parental leave.

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Children in unemployment or on parental leave shall be offered a preschool placement for at least 3 hours a day or 15 hours per week.

Preschool fees

Three hours a day of public preschool attendance is free of charge from the autumn term of the year in which a child turns three. For further attendance, the municipality or the education provider determines the fees. Currently all the municipalities use a system with a maximum fee. This means that an upper limit is set for how high fees can become for different types of families.

What Is a public preschool?

The municipality shall offer public preschool to all children from the autumn semester, the year the child turns 3 years old. Public preschool follows the calendar of the school year and does not include holidays. It is voluntary to send your child to public preschool and a child has the right to 15 hours at public preschool a week.

The municipality shall also offer preschool to children with special needs.

An alternative to the municipal preschool is an independent preschool. The municipalities approve the independent preschools and it is also the municipalities responsibility to check that the demands on good quality and safety, are being met. The rules are the same at municipal preschools as well as independent ones.

To learn more about the preschool system or other pedagogical activities, follow the link below:

<https://utbildningsguiden.skolverket.se/languages/english-engelska/preschool-and-preschool-class>

Comprehensive school

In Sweden one year in preschool class and nine years in comprehensive school is compulsory and is tuition free. Comprehensive schooling can happen through different school forms for example through special needs school and Sami school.

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The education shall be comparable regardless of where in the country a student goes to school. All students shall feel safe and respected and be given equal grounds to be able to learn at school. Every school year is divided into one autumn- and one spring term.

Municipal and private schools

Most comprehensive schools are municipal, and the most common way is for students to attend a municipal school close to their home. The independent comprehensive schools are open for everybody and the education is supposed to be equivalent to the education of the municipal schools. Independent schools have another owner than the municipality. It can be owned and run by a company, a foundation or an association. Compulsory schools can also have their own profile, such as Montessori, English classes or art- and sports classes.

Who guides the compulsory schools?

The parliament and the government decide on laws and decrees. The Municipality or the owner of the private comprehensive school and the principal has the main responsibility for the daily running of the schools.

Upper Secondary School

How upper secondary school works

Upper secondary school consists of different subjects and courses and are separated into common upper secondary subjects, common program subjects and individual subjects to mention a few.

Upper secondary diploma

When you have finished an upper secondary school program, you can have an upper secondary school degree. It can be either a vocational qualification or a university preparatory degree.

For more information about how upper secondary school work, follow the link below:

<https://utbildningsguiden.skolverket.se/languages/english-engelska/upper-secondary-school>

Education for adults

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Depending on what you want to study and what needs you have, there are different types of opportunities in different educational forms. Some of these are:

- Folk high school
- Vocational school
- Municipal adult education - Komvux
- Sfi – Swedish for adults
- Special education for adults
- University and college

To get more information about the many choices of adult education, follow the link below:

<https://utbildningsguiden.skolverket.se/languages/english-engelska/adult-education>