

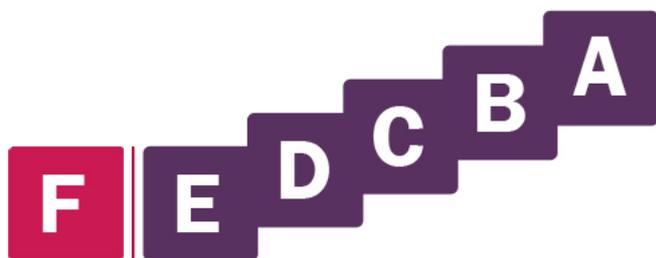
An overview of the Swedish education system

The Swedish education system comprises a number of types of schooling and education, designed for individuals of different ages and with differing needs and abilities. To make it easier for you to find information, the National Agency for Education has produced a map that provides an overview of the various parts of the education system. Use the map to find your way around the system and find information about the areas that are of particular interest to you. You can read brief information about:

- Preschool
- Preschool class
- Leisure-time centers
- Other pedagogical activities
- Compulsory school
- Upper secondary school
- Adult education
- Supplementary school
- Folk high schools (independent adult education colleges)
- Higher vocational education
- Universities and university colleges

Grading Scale A-E

Grades are set using a national grading scale of six grades. Grades awarded are A, B, C, D, E and F – where A-E are passing grades and F a fail. The grade should express to what extent the pupil has met the knowledge requirements stated for each subject and course.



Knowledge requirements for each subject and course

Knowledge requirements exist for all subjects at compulsory school and all courses at upper-secondary school. The knowledge requirements outline what is necessary for acceptable knowledge, and for the different grades. Should pupil absence mean there is not enough information to assess a pupil's knowledge in one subject, no grade will be given for that subject. This will be marked with a dash (-) in the educational record. Grade F and dashes will not be used in compulsory school, nor for upper secondary school for pupils with learning disabilities or education for adults with learning disabilities.

If a pupil risks failing to attain the lowest grade, E, it is the school's duty to investigate whether the pupil needs special support.

Knowledge requirements for grades A, C and E

Pre-established national knowledge requirements exist for acceptable knowledge for Year 3. In the school years and courses where grades are awarded, pre-established knowledge requirements have been set for grades A, C and E. Grade D shall be awarded when a pupil has met all the pre-established requirements for grade E and the majority of pre-established knowledge requirements for grade C. Grade B shall be awarded when the pupil has met all pre-established requirements for grade C and the majority of pre-established requirements for grade A.

Grades B and D

Grades B and D are established based on the pre-established knowledge requirements for the grade above and below. The grading criteria for grades B and D can be different between pupils. One pupil may meet certain pre-established knowledge requirements for the higher grade, whereas another pupil fulfils other parts. Both pupils can therefore be considered to have attained the majority of the knowledge requirements for the higher pre-established grade (i.e., C or A) and are therefore eligible for the higher grade. As this 'majority of requirements' is different from pupil to pupil, these knowledge requirements cannot be defined neither on a national nor local level.

Evaluation of 'the majority of requirements'

When evaluating 'the majority of requirements' the teacher carries out a comprehensive evaluation of the knowledge shown by the pupil. This is compared with the higher pre-established knowledge requirements. When doing such a comparison, the teacher should identify which parts of the pre-established knowledge requirements have been met by the pupil, and support this assessment using the aims and central content of the curriculum, to decide whether these constitute a 'majority' of the requirements.

Key terms

A number of key terms are used in the knowledge requirements and can be found in many of the subjects. To a great extent, these words take their meaning from the context in which they are used and it is therefore not possible to provide any general definitions. The Swedish National Agency for Education has produced commentary material for the knowledge requirements for compulsory school subjects. These provide a broader, deeper understanding of how the knowledge requirements are constructed. They are based in authentic evaluations of pupil materials from active teachers and describe ways in which a teacher can identify the evaluation aspects based on the key terms.

Certification of teachers and preschool teachers

2 March 2011, The Swedish Parliament decided to introduce certification of teachers and preschool teachers in Sweden. This reform is introduced from 1 July 2011. The purpose of the reform is to raise the level of skills among teachers and preschool teachers so as to improve the quality of educational services. The Swedish National Agency for Education take decisions on certification of teachers and preschool teachers. Certification requires a degree in education or in preschool education.

To qualify to teach at a school a teacher will need certification with a specialisation in the type of teaching concerned. A teacher's certificate clearly shows in which types of school, which subjects and which years he or she is qualified to teach. The National Agency for Education determine that a teacher is qualified on the basis of the teacher's education. Each application is reviewed and assessed based on the rules that applied when the teacher or preschool teacher took his or her degree, even if other requirements are applicable today. Expanded eligibility will be assessed against the provisions of Regulation on jurisdiction and the registration of teachers and preschool teachers (2011:326).

Only certified teachers will be eligible for permanent employment. Certification as a preschool teacher will be required to take responsibility for teaching activities in a preschool children's group. Exemptions will only be allowed if there is a shortage of qualified teachers or preschool teachers or on exceptional grounds. A decision to allow an exemption is to be taken by the school board and will be valid for at most one year at a time.

If a teacher or preschool teacher seriously neglects their work, their certificate may be withdrawn. Such decisions will be taken by a committee - the Teachers' Disciplinary Board - under the National Agency for Education. The Teachers' Disciplinary Board will be a new institution having the right to withdraw a teacher's certificate or to issue warnings.

What is required?

In order to apply for a teacher or preschool teacher certificate in Sweden, the applicant must have:

1. A diploma of Education (Lärarexamen) awarded by a university or other institution of higher education in Sweden or
- A Qualified Teacher Status Certificate (Behörighetsbevis) issued by the Swedish National

Agency for Higher Education (Högskoleverket) or

- A diploma of Education from a country other than Sweden that qualifies the holder to work as a teacher or preschool teacher in the country of education.

2. Adequate proficiency in the Swedish language. The applicants proficiency in Swedish must meet the requirements equivalent of an upper secondary (high school) course in Swedish.

The National Agency for Education may reach the decision that the applicant will need to supplement the foreign education with e.g. an adjustment period or further studies in Sweden before the applicant is eligible for a Teacher's certificate.