

Denmark

Involving the uninvolved: pupils at risk of underachieving

Learning and education for all – underachievers and the talented

Policy headlines September 2011

Primary education and lower secondary education (the cohortes one to ten):

- Early warning of pre-school linguistic problems. The language capability of all children age 3 is tested if lingual, behavioural or other reasons call for language stimulation.
- Focus on children with a non Danish mother tongue.
- Ten years of schooling is mandatory.
- Special needs education. Special education and other special educational assistance shall be given to children whose development requires special consideration or support. Special needs education can take place in the normal class, in a special class at the local school or in a special school.
- Focus on talented pupils. Differentiated teaching must address challenges to all pupils regardless of pre-conditions.
- Attending school. Presence is mandatory and absence is only accepted because of illness or by special permission. A nationwide campaign will be launched to emphasize the importance of going to school every day.

Upper secondary education (the cohortes eleven to thirteen):

- Schooling exceeding ten years is not mandatory, but presence is obligatory if you choose to continue.
- Dropout is a major challenge, especially in vocational education.
- Absence leads to dropout, so it is very important to retain students in the education system.
- The official target is that 95 percent of a youth cohorte shall pass the final exam in upper secondary education.
- All institutions with vocational education must have an action plan for increasing completion rates, including mentors, guidance, parental involvement, written work support, etc.
- A nationwide campaign will be launched to emphasize the importance of going to school every day.

