



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE
FINLAND

Education in Finland



Cornerstones in Finnish education

Underlying educational understanding based on equity

- Political decisions in 1960s and 1970s: good education for all
- Universal and free education with free school meals
- Equal opportunities to all pupils whatever their place of residence, gender, family background or financial standing
- No 'dead ends' in the system
- Faith and trust in the importance of education



Cornerstones in Finnish education

- Focus on learning, not steering
- The evaluation of the learning outcomes of schools and students is encouraging and supportive by nature.
- No national testing of learning outcomes, school ranking lists or inspection systems.
- Strong role of municipalities and schools
- Competent teachers with master's degree and autonomy in their work
- Extension of compulsory education and free materials for the second degree students



Diversity of demand requires diversity of supply

Equality



The assumption is that everyone benefits from the same supports. This is equal treatment.

Equity



Everyone gets the supports they need (this is the concept of "affirmative action"), thus producing equity.

Justice



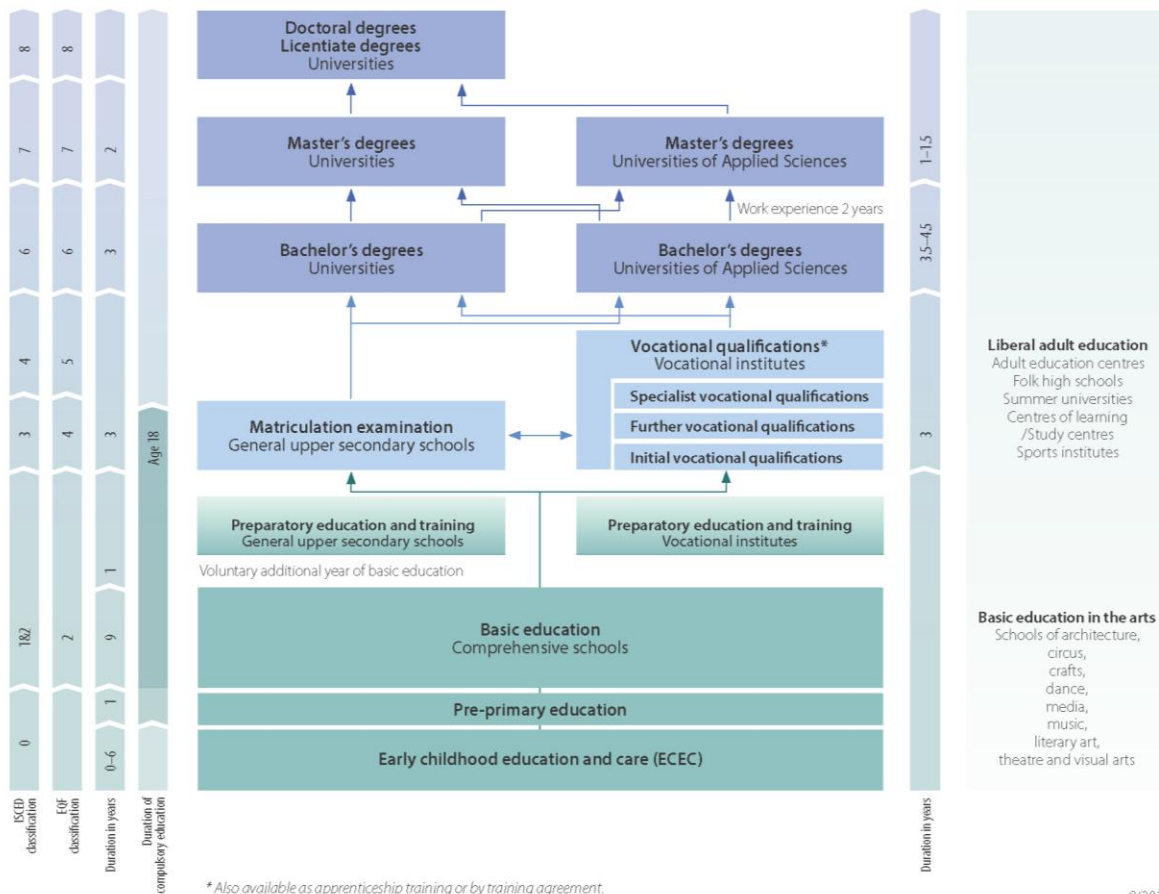
All 3 can see the game without supports of accommodations because the cause(s) of the inequity was addressed. The systemic barrier has been removed

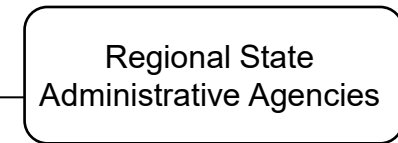
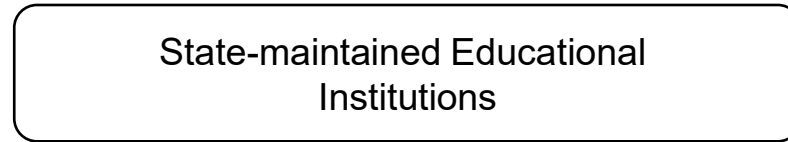
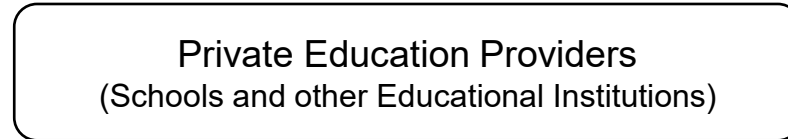
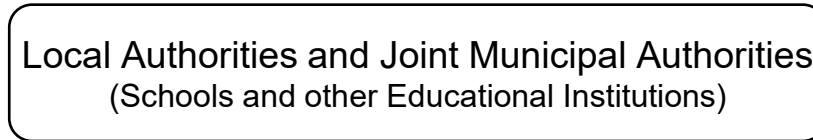
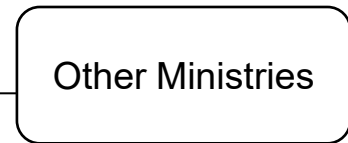
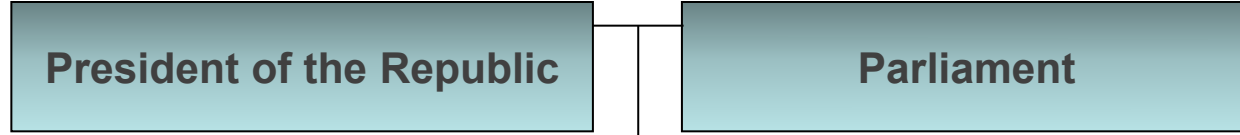
Flexible system

The education system

- gives each student great flexibility.
- Binding decisions are not expected to be made at an early stage.
- The road all the way to tertiary education is untracked, with none of the paths leading to a dead end.

EDUCATION SYSTEM IN FINLAND





Two-tier national administration

Ministry of Education and Culture

- Education policy
- Preparation of legislation
- State funding

Finnish National Agency for Education

- National development agency
- National core curricula & qualification requirements (not higher education)
- Support for evidence-based policy-making
- Support for reform and development
- Services for learners
- Supporting internationalisation

Central steering, Local decisions

National level

- Educational priorities
- Minimum time allocation
- National core curricula
- Size of state subsidies

Local level

- Educational priorities
- Local curricula
- Allocation of subsidies
- Class size
- Recruitment
- Teacher "evaluation"
- Quality assurance



Competent teachers

- On all school levels, teachers are highly qualified and committed
- They require Master's degrees, and teacher education includes teaching practice
- Teaching profession is very popular in Finland, and universities can select the most motivated and talented applicants
- Teachers work independently and have strong autonomy towards their work

Specificities of the Finnish education system

Highly trained teachers	No ranking	
Low annual instruction time	Support	Non-selective
Basic education starts at 7		Flexible groups
Focus on learning, not testing	Teaching is an active profession	

Evolution	Free education	Central steering
Public funding	Co-operation	Local decisions
Education as priority	Decentralized	Trust



Free school meals



Emphasis on collaboration



15 minute break
after every 45 minutes



Equal opportunities and equity



All children go to
publicly funded schools



Early support



No standardized tests in basic education