

1 1907—History

“A fundamental principle of the Icelandic educational system is that everyone should have equal opportunities to acquire an education, irrespective of sex, economic status, residential location, religion, possible handicap, and cultural or social background.”

Education was made obligatory in 1907.

2 Assessments

“Current legislation on compulsory education and upper secondary education stipulates that all compulsory and upper secondary schools are to adopt methods of evaluating school activities, including instruction and administrative practices, internal communication and external relations. The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture is to investigate the self-evaluation methods used by the schools at five-year intervals.”

3 The Curriculum

“The main purpose of compulsory schooling is to prepare pupils for life and work in a continuously developing, democratic society. The organisation of the school as well as its work shall, therefore, be guided by tolerance, Christian values and democratic cooperation.”

Research and Technology



“The educational system has, to a large extent, been decentralised both with regard to responsibilities and decision-making. This reflects a general trend in Icelandic society. Local municipalities are responsible for the operation of pre-schools and primary and lower secondary schools. On the other hand, the state runs the upper secondary schools and schools at the higher education level.”

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“The Ministry's future vision entails utilising the features of the Internet as an information utility for schooling. There, educational materials shall be imparted purposefully and communications established between students, teachers, school administrators, parents, employers and all those connected with education. This vision entails that traditional teaching practices develop into what may be called distributed education, with students engaging in studies in distributed learning schools.

As an extension of the Ministry's policy on information technology, efforts have been devoted to strengthening the premises for using the technology in schooling. Now, the Web educational gateway menntagatt.is has been opened, with information on the points of focus in education and information technology to be expanded and promoted by the Ministry.”

Iceland Education Consortium

