



10 March 2025

Ministry of Education and Research

Sweden's Progress Report on the ISTP 2024 Commitments

Commitment 1

Continue the joint efforts and dialogue with a view to attract and retain highly qualified and certified teachers and school leaders. Jointly strive to introduce new measures that will improve teachers working conditions and school environment.

Progress:

In March 2024 the government received an interim report with proposals from a national inquiry with the task to investigate and propose measures to improve work with safety in the school system. The government is currently preparing legislative proposals based on these proposals. These are even more crucial due to a recent school shooting.

In January 2025 a national inquiry regarding how schools can work more efficiently to create a safe and peaceful learning environment presented its proposals. It concludes that to create a safer school environment, teachers and principals need better conditions, relevant support measures for pupils need to be implemented early and respect for the school as a fundamental social institution must be restored.

In December 2024 a national inquiry submitted proposals about how to increase the entrance qualifications to teacher education. the inquiry suggests that teacher education should have more focus on learning sciences and subject content.

In March 2025, the government received proposals from a national inquiry on regulation of pre-school teachers' and teachers' time and on how to reduce administration and administrative tasks. The intension is to allow time for teaching and teaching related tasks.

Commitment 2

Continue to improve equity by, for example, strengthening the overall state involvement in the school system and take measures to ensure a more equitable financing model to create better conditions for a high-quality school system.

Progress:

A national inquiry has been tasked to propose certain profit bans or restrictions for independent education providers in December 2025. Proposals should include a limit on profit withdrawals or other forms of profit restrictions, an expanded ownership and management assessment and stricter sanctions.

A national inquiry is tasked with proposing how the state, based on the model for a national school voucher standard, should calculate the minimum resources each municipality should allocate to its own school operations. It should also propose a minimum compensation to each individual principal and, based on the model for a national school voucher standard, propose a system where the municipalities establish and allocate funds to the school operations. The final report should be submitted in November 2026.

A national inquiry proposed in February 2025 a new grade and merit system. The aims of the proposals are to make grades and grade point average from compulsory school and upper secondary level more fairly reflect students' subject knowledge and to counteract grade inflation.

A national inquiry submitted proposals in November 2024 concerning how to secure the supply of skills and ensure that more students acquire the knowledge they need. For example, new VET-programmes with less general content for students not eligible for the current VET-programmes at upper secondary level are proposed.

Commitment 3

Continue the work to support schools and teachers in their role as crucial actors responding to global challenges such as the green industrial transition by, for example, inspiring more young people to choose study programmes in STEM subjects. In order to do so, students need to be given early support to feel the confidence to excel in mathematics.

Progress:

In February 2025, the government adopted a strategy to strengthen STEM throughout the whole education system, from pre-school to PhD. Sweden needs more engineers and scientists to promote the green industrial transition. More young people, and especially girls, need to choose to study programmes in STEM areas. Teachers play a critical role in instructing and inspiring young people.

The student finance scheme for transition and retraining is being implemented. The scheme builds upon Sweden's already well developed and widely used student finance system. It makes it possible for professionals to retrain and study for up to one year while being compensated for their loss of income.

The Swedish Schools Inspectorate will conduct a review of pupils' access to textbooks and other teaching materials in preschool classes, primary schools and equivalent school forms. A final report will be presented in October 2026.

In February 2025, the government received proposals from a national inquiry on a new curriculum. The new curricula aims at creating better conditions for students' learning and knowledge development. Focus in the early years should be basic subject knowledge, in for ex. mathematics.