

# Government Decree on European Schooling Helsinki 15/2008

## Chapter 1 Organisation of instruction and the pupil's year-class

### Section 1 *Language sections*

1. The School has a Finnish, English and French language section.

### Section 2 *Teaching groups*

1. The teaching groups in the School shall be formed to enable teaching to be provided in accordance with the pupils' age and capabilities with due consideration to the resources of the School.

### Section 3 *The pupil's year-class*

1. Where the year-class corresponding to the age of a pupil applying for enrolment does not correspond to his or her knowledge and skills as attested by the most recent school report or other corresponding attendance record, the applicant's knowledge and skill level shall be assessed by means of a test and the table Equivalence of Teaching Levels in Appendix 1. These tests may be given in mother tongue, mathematics and foreign languages, as decided by the Director of the School.
2. Based on an assessment referred to in subsection 1, the applicant may be enrolled in a year-class in which his or her age is not more than two years older in the primary cycle and in classes 1—4 of the secondary cycle and three years older in classes 5—7 of the secondary cycle compared to the age of the middlemost pupil of that class when arranged by age.

## Chapter 2 *Pupils' working time*

### Section 4 *The school year*

1. The school year begins on the first of September and ends on the 31st of August.

Section 5  
*Weekly lesson hours*

1. In the nursery cycle and in classes 1 and 2 of the primary cycle the pupils are given at least 50 lesson hours of instruction on average, in classes 3—5 of the primary cycle at least 36 lesson hours on average and in the secondary cycle at least 31 lesson hours on average in a working week.
2. The lesson hour is 30 minutes in the nursery cycle and in classes 1 and 2 of the primary cycle and 45 minutes in other classes. The time of the school day shall be divided appropriately into teaching and break time.

Section 6  
*Substitution teaching*

1. If a part of a pupil's studies has been accredited he or she shall be provided with other studies or guided activities in substitution.

### **Chapter 3 Administration**

Section 7  
*Administrative Board*

1. The National Board of Education shall appoint the members of the Administrative Board and their deputies at the proposal of organisations referred to in Section 31(2) of the Act on European Schooling Helsinki (1463/2007) and decide on the appointment of possible other members for the term of office of the Administrative Board.
2. The National Board of Education shall appoint a chairperson and a vice-chair from amongst the members of the Administrative Board.
3. Should a member of the Administrative Board resign or die during the term of office, the National Board of Education shall appoint a new member in his or her place for the remainder of the term.
4. The School Director shall act as secretary to the Administrative Board.

Section 8  
*Handling of matters in the Administrative Board*

1. The Administrative Board shall be convened by the chairperson or, when he or she is prevented, by the vice-chair. The Administrative Board must be convened if at least three members request it.
2. The Administrative Board shall handle matters within its competence at the referral of the School Director.

3. A quorum shall consist of the chairperson or the vice-chair and at least half of the other members. Matters shall be decided by a simple majority of votes. If the votes are equal, the chairperson shall have the casting vote. Elections shall be decided by lot if the votes are equally divided.

## **Chapter 4**

### **Qualifications of the School Director and teachers**

#### Section 9

##### *Qualifications of the School Director*

1. The qualification requirements of the School Director are:
  - (1) a Master's level degree;
  - (2) teacher's qualification as laid down in this Decree;
  - (3) sufficient experience of the teaching profession;
  - (4) sufficient familiarity with educational administration; and
  - (5) excellent command of spoken and written Finnish and adequate skills in the languages of the other sections of the School.

#### Section 10

##### *Qualifications of the teaching staff*

1. The qualifications of a nursery teacher are governed by the provisions on pre-primary teacher qualifications in the Teaching Qualifications Decree (986/1998).
2. The qualifications of a primary teacher are governed by the provisions on class teacher qualifications in said Decree.
3. The qualifications of a secondary teacher are governed by the provisions on the qualifications of an upper secondary subject teacher in said Decree. If the teacher only teaches pupil in classes 1—3 of the secondary cycle, the qualifications of the subject teacher are governed by the provisions on subject teacher qualifications in said Decree.
4. The qualifications of a guidance counsellor are governed by the provisions on the qualifications of a guidance counsellor working in basic education or in upper secondary education.
5. Without prejudice to the provisions of subsections 1—4, a qualified teacher or guidance counsellor is a person who is qualified for a corresponding post or position in the Member State of the European Union in which he or she has obtained the diploma required for the post or position.

#### Section 11

##### *Language skill requirements*

1. Teachers must have adequate spoken and written command of at least one of the two languages of the other sections of the School in addition to their mother tongue.

2. Nursery and primary teachers, mother tongue teachers and teachers of the first foreign language must be native speakers of the language of instruction. Other teachers must have adequate spoken and written command of the language used in instruction.

#### Section 12

##### *Qualifications of subject teacher in certain cases*

1. Qualified to teach Integrated Science, Economics, Religious Education, History-Geography as one subject, or a curricular subject not mentioned in the Act on European Schooling Helsinki shall be a person who has the qualification referred to in Section 5a or Section 10a of the Teaching Qualification Decree.
2. Without prejudice to subsection 1, qualified as a subject teacher shall be a person who is qualified for a corresponding post or position in the Member State of the European Union in which he or she has obtained the certificate needed for the post or position.

#### Chapter 5

### **Commencement**

#### Section 13

##### *Commencement*

1. This Decree comes into force on the 15th of January 2008.
2. Measures needed to implement this Decree may be taken before the Decree comes into force.