Reform of the Danish public school
Clarification and simplification of the curriculum

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Reform of the Danish public school
- an improvement of standards

Three main goals

1. The public school must challenge all students to reach their full potential.
   - Target 1.1: At least 80 per cent of the students must be good at reading and Maths at national tests.
   - Target 1.2: The number of high achievers in Danish and Maths must increase year by year.

2. The public school must lower the significance of social background on academic results.
   - Targets: The percentage of students with bad results in the national tests for reading and Maths, independently of social background, must be reduced year by year.

3. Trust in the school and student well-being must be enhanced through respect for professional knowledge and practice in the public school.
   - Targets: The well-being of students must improve.
Reform of the Danish public school
- an improvement of standards

Three main areas

1. A longer and varied school day with more and improved teaching and learning.
2. An enhanced professional development of teachers, pedagogical staff and school principals.
3. Few and clear objectives and simplification of rules and regulations.
Government strategy on IT in the primary and lower secondary school sector

• There is a big unexploited potential within IT and digital learning resources.

• The use of IT can provide more variation during the school day and offer integration of play and action in the learning process

• The use of IT in education contains many possibilities e.g.:
  o Increasing the students’ motivation
  o Working with differentiated teaching
  o Working with authentic learning and student involvement
  o Working with “21st century skills”, e.g. teamwork and collaboration, problem solving, creativity and innovation…
Goal-oriented teaching and learning

The reform provide a better framework for working with action-/goal oriented teaching and learning:

- Three operative targets
- Clarification and simplification of the curriculum
- An improved digitised support of the student plan
- The ‘new’ educational portal
Clarification and simplification of the curriculum - overview

• Clear objectives for students’ learning will contribute to an increase of academic standards for the academically gifted students as well as for the academically weak

• The size and number of the Common Objectives will be reduced and simplified considerably.

The new curriculum does not change the content of the subjects, but focuses on the students learning outcomes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Curriculum 2009</th>
<th>New curriculum 2014</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of pages</td>
<td>89 pages</td>
<td>10 - 15 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of objectives</td>
<td>More than 100 objectives</td>
<td>20 - 25 objectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guidelines</td>
<td>Printed</td>
<td>Digitised - Dynamic educational portal</td>
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Clarification and simplification of the curriculum

• Among other things, the clarification of the Common Objectives must succeed in supporting the principals’ work with action-oriented teaching and the teachers’ daily work with planning, execution and evaluation of the teaching.

• The clarification will help the teachers, principals, the parents, among them the parental representatives of the school board, and the students to better understand the objectives in order for them to become active partners in relation to the students’ learning (which abilities, competences and methods the students need to learn.)

• The Common Objectives must to a higher degree support the methods of working in the public school of tomorrow, among these, varied teaching and the use of alternative learning environments, practice- and action-oriented teaching and increased implementation of ICT based teaching.

• The objectives will be digitised and supported by guidelines and tools, i.e. by specific examples of how to organise the teaching and how to ensure coherence with the day care pedagogical teaching programmes and the academic objectives for upper secondary education.
Clarification and simplification of the curriculum

- **A few overall competence objectives** with underlying skills and knowledge objectives. Must create links between teaching content and student learning through systematic link between competences, skills and knowledge.

- The overall competence objectives are made up of building blocks, which are targets of the knowledge and skills that students should acquire.

- The skills- and knowledge objectives 'break down' learning outcomes by topics (target pairs) and phases (progression).

- The objectives are set in phases explicate the progression the student must go through a school career.
Clarification and simplification of the curriculum

- Phase objectives are not linked to a specific grade level.

- Phases provide indicators for progression ahead the competence objectives. One phase per grade levels included (eg 3 phases in 1-3 grade).

- To challenge both academically weak and gifted students we set binding attention points in key core areas in Danish and mathematics, and along with examples of ‘challenge goals’ that can challenge the gifted students.
### Clarification and Simplification of the Curriculum

#### Kompetencer:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fase</th>
<th>Kompetencer</th>
<th>1-2 klasse</th>
<th>3-4 klasse</th>
<th>5-6 klasse</th>
<th>7-8 klasse</th>
<th>9-10 klasse</th>
<th>11-12 klasse</th>
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#### Oplysninger:

- **Kompetencer:**
  - Læsning:
    1. **Fase:** Bruger kan vælge en tekst ud af en liste
       - Bruger kan læse en tekst og muliggøre et mindre udvalg
       - Bruger kan læse en tekst og kunne tilføje til teksten

- **Fremstilling:**
  - Bruger kan udvikle ideer i forbindelse med teksten
  - Bruger kan anføre ideer i forbindelse med teksten

- **Fortælling:**
  - Bruger kan læse og fortælle en tekst
  - Bruger kan fortælle en tekst

- **Kommunikation:**
  - Bruger kan kommunikere med andre
  - Bruger kan anføre ideer i forbindelse med teksten

#### Danish Ministry of Education

UNI.C - National Agency for IT and Learning
Links

http://eng.uvm.dk/~/media/UVM/Filer/English/PDF/131007%20folkeskole\_eformaf\_tale\_ENG\_RED.ashx (How to make a good school even better)

http://eng.uvm.dk/

http://uvm.dk/Den-nye-folkeskole (Reform - in Danish)

Government strategy on IT in the Danish school sector
Government strategy on IT

• The aim of the strategy is to increase and qualify the use of IT as an integrated part of the teaching

• The government has allocated 500 million Danish kroner (approximately 55 million £) from 2012 through 2015 to implement the strategy

• Collaboration between the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance and the organization for the Danish municipalities, Local Government Denmark (LGD)
Initiatives in the government strategy

- Support the purchase of digital learning resources in order to develop a sustainable market and a supply of high quality digital learning resources
- Research and pilot projects on IT-based learning (demonstration schools)
- Access to sufficient it-infrastructure
- Support the implementation of IT and digital learning resources
Developing the market for digital learning resources

- Support the municipalities’ purchase of digital learning resources in order to develop a sustainable market and a supply of high quality digital learning resources

  - The Danish municipalities co-finance 50 percent of the purchase of digital learning resources

  - The digital learning resources must meet certain criteria in order to be eligible for government grant, e.g.:
    - Academic and pedagogical impact
    - High degree of interactivity
    - Other criteria regarding flexibility and transparency for the buyers
Research and pilot projects on IT-based learning

The purpose is to generate new knowledge on IT and learning – e.g. how digital learning resources can support the student’s learning and provide more time for teaching

Four projects starting in January 2014 on the themes:

1) Student involvement and own production
2) Inclusion and differentiated teaching
3) Teachers’ IT didactic skills
4) New ways of organizing teaching

The research projects are executed by consortia consisting of universities, teachers’ training colleges and 21 public schools (”demonstration schools”
Access to sufficient it-infrastructure

• Access for all students and teachers to efficient and sufficient infrastructure is the foundation for increasing the use of IT

• The aims of the strategy include:
  
  o Wireless networks in all schools by August 2014
  o Access to computer or other device for all learners by August 2014

• As part of a political agreement the association Local Government Denmark (LGD) is responsible for implementing and financing this initiative.
Support the implementation

- Network of school principals has been established in order to
  - facilitate local change management, e.g. local goals for the use of IT
  - support the increased and qualified use of IT
  - share knowledge

- Teacher network in order to develop IT-didactic skills and share knowledge on the use of digital learning resources

- Network on development of future digital learning resources: producers, users, government, municipalities, scientists