

DETERMINATION OF A PUPIL'S SCHOOL PLACE AND ADMISSION CRITERIA IN FINNISH-LANGUAGE BASIC EDUCATION AS OF 1 JANUARY 2022

1 ASSIGNING A PLACE IN THE LOCAL SCHOOL OR IN OTHER APPROPRIATE SCHOOL

1.1 Local school

As a rule, all pupils have the right to attend their local school, which is assigned according to their home address and the school admission area defined by the Finnish sub-committee of the Education Committee.

1.2 Other appropriate place

The pupil has the right to admission to the nearest appropriate school other than the local school indicated by the municipality in the following situations:

- if in admission to first grade, the pupil wants to select an A1 language that is not available in the local school
- if the pupil is otherwise unable to continue studying the A1 or A2 language or English as a B1 language the pupil has previously taken
- if the local school is unsuitable for the pupil due to health reasons or other special grounds
- if the pupil has been granted a decision for special-needs support in a special education class
- if the pupil participates in preparatory education
- if the pupil participates in flexible basic education

Admission requires that the school has vacancies. Drawing lots may be used if there are more applicants than there are vacancies in the school.

2 ADMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH LEARNING PATH

If a pupil has been admitted to weighted-curriculum education, extensive bilingual education or basic education in English starting in the first or third grade, in order to enable the continuity of the studies, the pupil has the right to continue the studies in the same programme until the end of the ninth grade in accordance with the learning path determined by the Education Committee.

In accordance with Chapter 3, the pupil may also apply to a school other than the one they are admitted to according to their learning path.

Pupils who have participated in Swedish-language immersion pre-primary education are primarily admitted to Swedish-language immersion education. If there are vacancies, other applicants may also be admitted if they have sufficient Swedish-language skills. Applicants may also be admitted to Swedish-language immersion education for subsequent grades upon their guardian's application if there are vacancies and the pupil has sufficient Swedish-language skills.

The Finnish sub-committee of the Education Committee will make a decision on the learning paths of weighted-curriculum education, extensive bilingual education and basic education in English as well as Swedish-language immersion education starting on the first and third grade.

3. APPLYING TO A SCHOOL OTHER THAN THOSE REFERRED TO IN CHAPTERS 1 AND 2

3.1 General

A child of compulsory education age may also apply to a school other than those referred to in Chapters 1 and 2 above. Admission requires that the school has vacancies and that it will not create the need to establish a new teaching group in the school.

The education organised by the City of Helsinki is primarily for pupils living in Helsinki.

If a pupil is admitted to a school other than those referred to in Chapters 1 and 2, admission may be subject to the condition that the costs of transporting or accompanying the pupil to school and back are borne by the guardian.

3.2 Admission criteria

The admission of pupils shall be subject to equal selection criteria.

If there are more applicants than there are vacancies in the school, the criteria will be complied with in the following order:

- 1) Sibling: the pupil has siblings in the school in question
- 2) Continuity of pre-primary education and basic education: pupils coming from pre-primary education groups identified in the joint plan by pre-primary education and the local school
- 3) Length of the journey to school

In addition, drawing lots may be used for each selection criterion if there are more applicants than there are vacancies in the school.

The Finnish sub-committee of the Education Committee decides annually on the maximum number of pupils in the 1st and 7th grades school-specifically. The maximum number of pupils in the first grade is binding for the admission of pupils in the grades 1–2 referred to in this chapter, and the maximum number of pupils in the seventh grade is binding for the admission of pupils in the grades 7–9 referred to in this chapter.

3.3 Aptitude test

The admission of pupils into weighted-curriculum education, extensive bilingual education and basic education in English is based on aptitude tests.

Schools offering the same weighted-curriculum education, extensive bilingual education and basic education in English use the same aptitude test.

If there are more pupils who achieve the minimum acceptable score from the aptitude test then there are vacancies, drawing lots may be used.

If the municipality of residence of a pupil who has previously studied in basic education in English changes to Helsinki in the middle of basic education, in order to enable the continuity of the pupil's studies, the pupil may be admitted to basic education in English in the closest appropriate school that has vacancies if the following criteria are met:

- The pupil must have an actual need for a school place, i.e. the pupil is still without a school place in Helsinki and
- The pupil has received English-language instruction abroad that is equivalent to Finnish basic education in accordance with the Finnish Basic Education Act or English-language education provided elsewhere in Finland in accordance with the Basic Education Act and
- Based on the aptitude test, the pupil has sufficient language skills and competence to participate in English-language instruction.

If the municipality of residence of a pupil who has previously studied in weighted-curriculum education or extensive bilingual education changes to Helsinki in the middle of basic education, in order to enable the continuity of the pupil's studies, the pupil may be admitted to similar weighted-curriculum education or extensive bilingual education in the closest appropriate school that has vacancies if the following criteria are met:

- The pupil must have an actual need for a school place, i.e. the pupil is still without a school place in Helsinki and
- The pupil has studied in weighted-curriculum education or extensive bilingual education in accordance with the Basic Education Act elsewhere in Finland.
- Based on the aptitude test, the pupil has sufficient skills and competence to participate in weighted-curriculum education or extensive bilingual education.

4 PUPIL'S RIGHT TO ATTEND SCHOOL FOLLOWING A CHANGE IN PLACE OF RESIDENCE

If the pupil's place of residence changes within the city of Helsinki, the pupil has the right to attend all grades available in the school the pupil is attending before the change.

If the pupil's place of residence changes to somewhere outside the city of Helsinki, the pupil has the right to finish the current term in the school they are attending before the change.

The pupil may then be admitted to a school in Helsinki in accordance with the criteria listed in Chapter 3. The guardian is responsible for any costs incurred in transporting or accompanying the pupil to school and back.