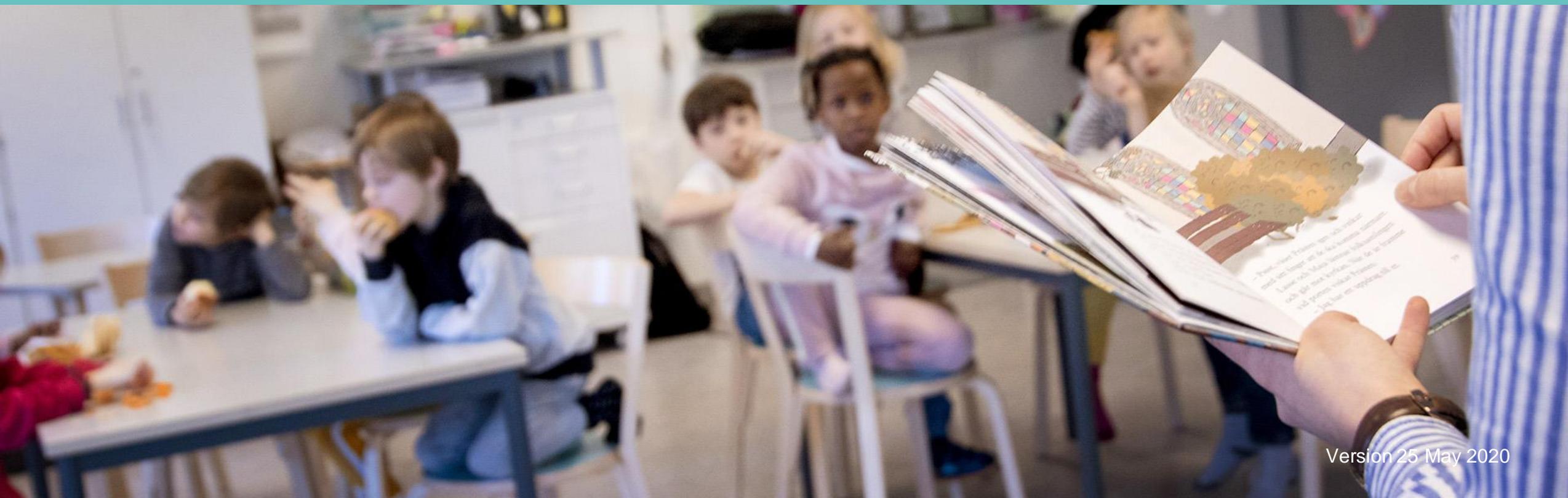


# The Swedish school system - a snapshot

The Gothenburg region, West Sweden



SKOLAN

Börjar idag!



SCHOOL STARTS TODAY  
ARE YOU READY? :)



## OVERVIEW

- The Swedish education system enjoys a good reputation and has been ranked highly. For example, it is amongst top countries based on rankings by World Population Review
- Sweden invests heavily in education and spends more per student on compulsory, secondary and tertiary education than the OECD nations as a whole.
- It is highly regulated and governed by the Education Act.
- Its emphasis on individual learning, equality and personal liberty fosters innovation and creativity.

Photo: Ann Sofie Rosenkvist/imagebanksweden.se



Photo: Sofia Sabel/imagebanksweden.se

## HOW THE SWEDISH SCHOOL SYSTEM WORKS

- Education is compulsory for all children aged 6 to 15/16.
- The municipalities/cities are responsible for compulsory basic school, upper secondary school and municipal adult education.
- Most of the responsibility for education rests with local municipalities/cities
- 80 per cent of one- to five-year-olds attend preschool in Sweden, at least for a few hours a day.
- Four stages of compulsory education are: förskoleklass ('preschool year' / kindergatan), lågstadiet (years 1–3), mellanstadiet (years 4–6) and högstadiet (years 7–9).
- Upper secondary school Gymnasium (upper secondary school or high school, years 10–12) is optional. But almost everyone goes to Gymnasium.

# HOW THE SWEDISH SCHOOL SYSTEM WORKS

- There are nationwide requirements for all schools to follow
- Majority of children attend public (run by the municipality/city) schools
- Most of the responsibility for education rests with local municipalities/cities
- There are also independent schools which are open to all and must also be approved by the National Agency for Education. They are obliged to abide by the Education Act, yet are governed by their own special rules.
- This also ensures a consistency of education and standards across the country
- Sweden is one of the few countries that still provide a free lunch for pupils.



Photo: Maskot/Folio/imagebank.sweden.se

# HOW THE SWEDISH SCHOOL SYSTEM WORKS - FEES

## Preschools and after school care

- There is a maximum fee policy, which makes childcare affordable for everyone. It is referred to as maxtaxa.
- Fees are calculated according to income. The maximum fee for one child is SEK 1,478 (about EUR 135, July 2019) per month.

## Schools - Free of charge

- School for children aged 6 to 19 –is fully tax-funded, most often including lunches.
- The policy states that parents should only have to spend 1-3% of the family's income on childcare, depending on how many children they have.
- This means childcare costs in Sweden are a fraction of those in many other nations. These are also regulated by the individual municipality/city and hence may be slightly different.
- Students shall have access to books and other materials, as well as nutritious meals free of charge.



Photo: Lena Granefelt/imagebank.sweden.se



## Swedish universities are free of charge:

- If you are an EU/EEA citizen
- If you have a Swedish residence permit granted for reasons other than studies



Photo: Lo Birgersson/City of Gothenburg

## AFTER SCHOOL CARE

- Also called “fritids” this is an on-going part of the school day.
- It is available to children whose parents work or study and require care outside of the regular school day.
- After-school care starts for children from the year they move to preschool class (“förskoleklass”) and is available up until grade 6 (age 12/13).
- Like preschool care, each municipality/city sets its own rules on what is permitted for after-school care.
- Parents who are unemployed and not studying are, in general, not allowed to leave their children in after-school care. Though, it is best to check with your municipality/city or school principle.
- The fee for Fritids is set according to the Swedish maximum rate law (maxtaxa) which is based on the family income.

## TIPS

- You can have different approaches for your school going children depending on their age and your long-term plans
- Consider admitting your child into a Swedish preschool
  - if the location of the school may be a consideration
  - if you know you will be here for a long time and
  - especially if your children are in junior grades
- If your children are in a local school in the neighborhood, it will help build a social network for your children as well as you.
- Every municipality/city has a school administration, you should contact them for guidance and in-depth information regarding preschools and schools in your area.



Photo: Ann-Sofi Rosenkvist/imagebank.sweden.se



## OPEN PRESCHOOLS & FAMILY CENTRES

### Open preschools

- *Öppna förskolan* is a meeting place for families with children in ages 0-6. They are free of charge to visit and you do not have to register in advance to visit. The children's learning and development is the focus and you as a parent are responsible for your children. Here you can connect with other parents and get support in parenting. Contact the municipality/city where you reside to find out your closest 'Öppna Förskola' and its opening hours.

### Family centres (Familjecentral)

- Family Centres aim to provide children and their families with the best start in life. They offer an open friendly and safe place for children to play and develop. It is also a place for parents to meet and exchange experiences. A Family Centre is a meeting place for families in a neighbourhood or a community. The foundation is maternity and child health care in collaboration with an open pre-school and preventative social service gathered together under the same roof. It employs various professionals such as Midwives, Paediatric nurses, Paediatricians, Psychologists, Preschool teachers and Social workers.

## DO REMEMBER

- Swedish schools are ranked highly because they focus on the overall development of children of which academics is one part.
- Encourage your children to participate in every school activity to benefit from this system.

Some key concepts are

- Preschools
  - Learning through play and fun
- Schools
  - Learning through activities, sport and creativity
- High schools
  - Learning through critical thinking and open discussions



Photo: Frida Winter/City of Gothenburg



## USEFUL LINKS & SOURCES

- <https://www.movetogothenburg.com/>
- <https://www.movetogothenburg.com/moving/preschools-and-schools>
- <https://sweden.se/tag/childcare/>
- <https://www.skolverket.se/>

**GOOD LUCK!**

**For more information on moving to, living, working and studying in the Gothenburg region, West Sweden, please visit or contact Move to Gothenburg:**

[www.movetogothenburg.com](http://www.movetogothenburg.com)  
[info@movetogothenburg.com](mailto:info@movetogothenburg.com)



Move to Gothenburg is a collaborative initiative that aims to attract and welcome highly skilled internationals, and get them to stay and thrive in the Gothenburg region, West Sweden.