

Compulsory School Act


2008 No 91 12 June

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*Any reference in this Act to “the Minister” or “the Ministry” not accompanied by express mention of or reference to a specific field of responsibility shall be understood as being a reference to the **Minister of Education, Science and Culture** or to the **Ministry of Education, Science and Culture** as responsible for the implementation of this Act.*


Section I Scope; role of compulsory schools; compulsory schooling


Article 1 *Scope*

 This Act shall apply to compulsory schools run by municipalities, to privately-run compulsory schools that have been accredited pursuant to this Act, and to other types of recognised education at the compulsory level. All schools offering education at the compulsory level are referred to as compulsory schools.


Article 2 *Objective*

 The role of compulsory schools is to cooperate with homes in promoting the all-round development of all pupils and their participation in a democratic society in constant development. The manner of operation of compulsory schools shall be characterised by tolerance and charity, guided by the Christian heritage of Icelandic culture and marked by equality, democratic cooperation, responsibility, consideration, forgiveness and respect for human worth. Compulsory schools shall also seek to organise their work in a way that corresponds as fully as possible with the circumstances and needs of pupils, and to promote the all-round development, well-being and education of each individual.

 Compulsory schools shall promote open-mindedness among pupils and strengthen their proficiency in the Icelandic language and their understanding of Icelandic society, its history and specificities, people’s living conditions, and the individual’s duties to the community, the environment and the world. Pupils shall be given the opportunity to show creativity and to acquire knowledge and skills in the constant pursuit of education and maturity. Schooling shall provide the foundations necessary for pupils to show initiative and independent thinking, and enhance their cooperation skills.

 Compulsory schools shall promote close cooperation between the home and the school with a view to ensuring successful schooling and the general welfare and safety of pupils.

Article 3 *Compulsory schooling*

 The duration of compulsory schooling shall generally be ten years, but may be shortened in accordance with Article 32. School attendance is mandatory for all children, in general between the ages of 6 and 16.

 Parents shall safeguard the interests of their children of compulsory school age. For the

purposes of this Act, a parent is any individual who has custody of a child within the meaning of the Act in Respect of Children.

Section II Governance of compulsory schools

Article 4 *General administration*

The [Minister]⁽¹⁾ shall assume responsibility for the general administration of any matter governed by this Act; issue the National Curriculum Guide for Compulsory Schools; provide learning materials to compulsory schools; oversee quality assurance in schools; collect, analyse and disseminate information; support developmental work in schools; and rule on any disputes that may arise in accordance with the provisions of this Act. The [Ministry]⁽¹⁾ shall ensure that municipalities meet their obligations pursuant to this Act, any regulations or rules issued on the basis thereof, and the National Curriculum Guide for Compulsory Schools. The Minister shall every three years report to the Althing on the implementation of compulsory education in Iceland, based amongst other things on reports on the operation of schools submitted by municipalities pursuant to Article 37.

⁽¹⁾Act No 91/2011, Article 1.

Article 5 *Municipalities*

The operation of regular compulsory schools and the related costs shall be the responsibility of each municipality. Municipalities shall be responsible for the general organisation of schooling in their compulsory schools; the development of individual schools; the premises and equipment provided to compulsory schools; special classes in compulsory schools; specialist services; evaluation and quality assurance measures; the collection and dissemination of information; and the implementation of compulsory schooling in the municipality. Municipalities shall establish a general policy on compulsory schooling and make it known to their inhabitants. The Municipal Council shall instigate cooperation between preschools and compulsory schools, as well as between compulsory schools and upper secondary schools.

Municipalities shall be responsible for any cooperation taking place between compulsory schools and third parties.

Municipalities have the obligation to ensure that children of compulsory school age within the meaning of Article 3 who are legal residents of the municipality, as well as children who have been placed in the care of foster parents residing in the municipality, attend a compulsory school according to the further provisions of this Act. [Prior to placing a child in foster care, the relevant child protection committee shall investigate the circumstances of the case in consultation with the local school authorities and assess the potential of the compulsory school concerned to meet the needs of the child.]⁽¹⁾

If the legal residence of the child has not been determined by competent authorities, the Municipal Council shall decide upon the child's compulsory schooling, provided that the child resides in the municipality and that a request for its admission to school has been submitted pursuant to Article 19. The refusal of the Municipal Council to admit a child is subject to appeal under Article 47. The [Ministry]⁽²⁾ may issue a ruling requiring the local authorities to admit a child to a compulsory school in the municipality.

The Municipal Council of the municipality where a child has legal residence may conclude an agreement with another municipality to admit the child to a compulsory school, in which case the receiving municipality shall have the same obligations in relation to the child's schooling as if had been a legal resident in that municipality.

[The Minister shall, in consultation with the Association of Local Authorities, the Government Agency for Child Protection and other public authorities, issue a Regulation⁽³⁾ on the implementation of this Article, including provisions on the schooling of foster children, both on the professional and financial aspects thereof and on the cooperation of the parties

concerned. A complaints board composed of representatives of the Ministry, the Association of Local Authorities and the Government Agency for Child Protection shall rule on any disputes that may arise.]⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 91/2011, Article 2. ⁽²⁾Act No 126/2011, Article 492. ⁽³⁾Regulation No 547/2012.

Article 6 School boards

In each municipality, a School Board operating on behalf of the Municipal Council shall be charged with compulsory school affairs pursuant to applicable laws and regulations and as determined by the Municipal Council(s) concerned.

The main tasks of the School Board shall be as follows:

- a. To ensure that all children of compulsory school age who have the right to attend school in the municipality receive legally mandated compulsory education;
- b. To approve the annual operating plan and the school curriculum guide of each individual school;
- c. To oversee the implementation of education and teaching in the municipality and the development of school curriculum guides, and to make proposals to the headteacher and/or the Municipal Council regarding improvement in schooling;
- d. To oversee and promote the access by pupils and schools to specialist services;
- e. To ensure at all times the existence of appropriate premises for teaching and other facilities, including an outdoor area and playground for pupils;
- f. To monitor compliance with the provisions of laws and regulations and make proposals to the Municipal Council on possible improvements;
- g. To promote contacts and cooperation between preschools and compulsory schools and between compulsory schools and upper secondary schools.

The School Board shall be elected by the relevant Municipal Council at the start of each elective term. Elections to the School Board and its manner of operation shall be governed by the provisions of the Local Government Act and by the ordinances of the municipality concerned. Alternate board members shall be of the same number as principal members and elected in the same way.

Headteachers, compulsory school teachers and parents in each municipality shall each elect one principal and one alternate representative to attend School Board meetings with the right to speak and propose motions.

Appeals to the School Board pursuant to this Act shall be dealt with in accordance with the rules of the Administrative Procedures Act. As regards limitations on the eligibility of board members and other representatives with a right to attend board meetings, the provisions of the Local Government Act shall apply.

Article 7 Headteachers

Every compulsory school shall be led by a headteacher who has the direction of the school, provides professional leadership and assumes responsibility for the school's work *vis-à-vis* the Municipal Council. The headteacher shall promote cooperation between all members of the school community. The headteacher shall call teachers' meetings as often as required during the operating period of the compulsory school. Teachers' meetings shall be attended by teachers and other staff with specialist training. The headteacher shall call staff meetings as often as required.

The headteacher shall make proposals to the Municipal Council regarding the administrative organisation of the compulsory school, taking into account the needs of the school concerned. The headteacher shall decide on the tasks of the other administrators of the school, one of which shall serve as deputy headteacher.

Where a compulsory school has fewer than 60 pupils and no other administrators, the headteacher shall decide at the beginning of each school year which of the school's permanent teachers shall assume the role of headteacher in case of the headteacher's absence.

Article 8 School councils

Each compulsory school shall operate a School Council which shall serve as a forum for consultation between the headteacher and the school community regarding the operation of the school. The School Council shall participate in setting the school's strategic direction and in developing its specific character. The School Council shall discuss the school curriculum guide, the school's annual operating plan, its financial plan and any other plans relating to the operation of the school. The School Council shall be invited to comment on any plans involving major changes to the operation and work of the school before a final decision is reached. The School Council shall maintain general supervision of the safety, welfare and general well-being of pupils. Subject to the consent of the Municipal Council, the School Board established pursuant to Article 6 may assign specific additional tasks to the School Councils of individual schools.

Each School Council shall be composed of nine members, appointed for a period of two years at a time, including two teachers' representatives, one representative of other staff at the school concerned, two pupils' representatives and two parents' representatives, in addition to the headteacher who shall chair the Council and be responsible for its establishment.

Additionally, the School Council shall select as one of its members either a representative of the local community or an additional representative from among parents. Moreover, the headteacher shall summon once a year a joint meeting of the School Council and the board of the pupils' association. [A temporary exemption from the provisions of this paragraph may be requested through an application addressed to the Ministry and accompanied by a reasoned statement. The statement must make clear how the tasks of the School Council will be carried out. Any exemption must be justified by objective reasons, such as a small student population or special circumstances.]⁽¹⁾

The Minister shall issue a Regulation⁽²⁾ on the operation of School Councils in consultation with local authorities', teachers' and parents' associations.

⁽¹⁾Act No 91/2011, Article 3. ⁽²⁾Regulation No 1157/2008.

Article 9 Parents' associations

A parents' association shall be operated at every compulsory school. The headteacher shall be responsible for the establishment of the association and ensure that it receives any necessary support. The role of the parents' association is to support the school's work, promote the welfare of pupils and strengthen the relations between the home and the school.

The parents' association of each school shall set its own rules, including on elections to its board and the election of representatives to the School Council.

Article 10 Pupils' associations

A pupils' association shall be operated at every compulsory school; the headteacher shall be responsible for its establishment. The responsibilities of the pupils' association shall include the management of pupils' social activities, their general interests and their welfare; the headteacher shall ensure that the association receives any necessary support.

The pupils' association of each school shall set its own rules, including on elections to its board and the election of representatives to the School Council pursuant to Article 8, second paragraph.

Section III Staff of compulsory schools

Article 11 Recruitment

The recruitment of headteachers and other staff of compulsory schools shall be governed by the provisions of the Local Government Act and further provisions contained in the ordinance on the government of the municipality as applicable.

[Recruitment requirements for headteachers, teachers and school counsellors (educational and career counsellor) of compulsory schools shall be as determined in applicable

legislation.]¹⁾

☒ Persons having been convicted for violating the provisions of Section XXII of the General Penal Code must not be hired as compulsory school employees. Prospective employees shall present their criminal records or authorise the headteacher to obtain the record from the penal register.

¹⁾Act No 35/2009, Article 9.

☒ **Article 12 Staff**

☒ All staff of compulsory schools shall in their work show proof of professionalism, commitment and conscientiousness. Staff must exercise courtesy, consideration and tact in their relations with children, their parents, and co-workers.

☒ All staff of compulsory schools shall observe the utmost confidentiality with regard to information on the personal situation of children and their parents of which they gain knowledge in their work and which are covered by a secrecy requirement according to law, the orders of superiors, or by the nature of the case. The obligation of confidentiality shall continue to apply even after the employment of person in question ends. The obligation of confidentiality of compulsory school staff shall not extend to information on incidents that are subject to statutory reporting requirements. The headteacher shall remind staff of the existence of the above obligations, in particular the statutory reporting requirement of the Child Protection Act.

☒ At the headteacher's initiative, each school shall elaborate a plan on how to organise lifelong learning for its staff so as to achieve the best alignment with the priorities laid down by the school and the municipality and in the National Curriculum Guide.

☒ Headteachers and teachers of compulsory schools shall have the possibility to participate in lifelong learning on a regular basis in order to enhance their professional competence. They shall also have the possibility to take study leave.

Section IV Pupils

☒ **Article 13 Pupils' rights**

☒ Compulsory schools are the workplace of pupils. All pupils in compulsory schools shall be entitled to receive suitable instruction within an encouraging study environment and in appropriate premises adapted to their needs and general well-being. Each compulsory school shall in all respects organise its work so as to allow pupils to feel safe and develop their abilities. Pupils have the right to enjoy the benefit of their childhood in all school work. Care shall be taken to maintain a reasonable workload so as to ensure sufficient rest for pupils from organised activities within the school day and over the school year, including by organising continuous breaks over Christmas and Easter. Pupils shall have the right to express their views on the study environment, learning arrangements, the organisation of schooling, and any other decision concerning them. These views shall be taken into account where possible.

☒ Every pupil shall have a class teacher. Class teachers shall closely monitor the schooling of their pupils, their development, well-being and general welfare, guide them in their studies and school work, assist and advise them regarding personal matters, and work to strengthen the cooperation between the school and the home.

☒ [Pupils in compulsory schools shall be entitled to school counselling by persons meeting the requirements of the Act on school counsellors.]¹⁾

¹⁾Act No 35/2009, Article 9.

☒ **Article 14 Pupils' responsibilities**

☒ Pupils shall be responsible for their own learning, their behaviour and their social interactions, taking into account their age and level of maturity.

☒ Pupils must follow the instructions of teachers and compulsory school staff regarding any school-related matter, obey school rules, and respect general rules of conduct in their

interactions with school staff and fellow pupils.

☐ In the case of highly inappropriate behaviour by a pupil, the pupil's teacher shall attempt to determine the causes of the behaviour and seek ways to improve it, including through conversations with the pupil and her/his parents. If the situation nevertheless does not improve, the teacher shall solicit the help of the headteacher and experts from among the school's counsellors, who shall then seek appropriate remedies, taking due account, where applicable, of the role of child protection authorities.

☐ While a case pursuant to the third paragraph remains unresolved, the headteacher may suspend or permanently dismiss the pupil, provided that any such decision is reported immediately to the pupil's parents and to the School Board. Decisions to this effect shall be governed by the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act. The School Board shall have an obligation to ensure, within reasonable time limits, that a suspended pupil receives suitable instruction.

☐ Decisions pursuant to the fourth paragraph are subject to appeal under Article 47. If the municipality fails to ensure instruction for the pupil, the Ministry may issue a ruling requiring the municipality to provide the pupil with further specified instruction within a certain time limit.

☐ The Minister shall issue a Regulation containing more detailed provisions on the implementation of this Article.¹⁾

¹⁾*Regulation No 1040/2011.*

☐ **Article 15** *Compulsory schooling*

☐ Pupils are obliged to attend compulsory school pursuant to Article 3. Compulsory schooling may be provided by compulsory schools run by municipalities, by privately run compulsory schools or by other recognised means in accordance with this Act.

☐ A child's compulsory schooling normally starts at the beginning of the school year on the calendar year in which the child turns six years old. Parents may request or consent to an earlier or later start to their child's schooling. The headteacher may authorise this, after obtaining the opinion of the specialist services.

☐ The headteacher may exempt a pupil from compulsory schooling in a particular subject if this can be objectively justified. The headteacher may furthermore recognise studies outside the compulsory school system as equivalent to compulsory school studies.

☐ Where the parents of a child of compulsory school age request that the child be temporarily exempted from attending a particular subject or from school attendance in general, the headteacher may grant such an exemption if this is considered to be objectively justified. In such cases, the parents shall ensure that the pupil catches up any school work missed while the exemption lasts.

☐ Decisions to grant or refuse exemptions pursuant to the third and fourth paragraphs shall be governed by the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act. Any such decision is subject to appeal under Article 47. The Minister may issue a ruling providing for a full or partial exemption to be granted, even when a request to this effect has not been agreed to by the municipality.

☐ Guidelines on the granting of exemptions pursuant to this Article shall be issued as part of the National Curriculum Guide for Compulsory Schools.

☐ **Article 16** *Reception plans; pupils whose native language is not Icelandic*

☐ The language of instruction in compulsory schools shall be Icelandic. Other languages than Icelandic may be used for instruction whenever this is required by the nature of the matter or by the National Curriculum Guide.

☐ Compulsory schools shall adhere to the reception plan of the relevant school or municipality when receiving children who are starting school, transferring between schools or who have not attended school previously in Iceland. At that point, parents shall be provided with

information about their child's schooling and the operation of the school in general, and parents whose native language is not Icelandic and deaf parents shall be informed of their right to interpretation services.

☐ Reception plans for pupils whose native language is not Icelandic shall take into consideration the pupils' background, their language skills and their competence in other subject areas. Schools shall ensure that the pupils and their parents receive counselling and access to information about compulsory schooling.

☐ Pupils whose native language is not Icelandic shall be entitled to training in Icelandic as a second language. The aim of the training shall be for the pupils to become actively bilingual and capable of studying at compulsory schools and becoming active participants in Icelandic society. Compulsory schools may validate the native language skills of pupils whose native language is not Icelandic as part of their compulsory schooling, replacing compulsory schooling in another foreign language.

☐ **Article 17** *Pupils with special needs*

☐ Pupils shall have the right to have their needs for education met in a regular, inclusive compulsory school, regardless of their physical or mental abilities.

☐ Pupils whose learning difficulties are caused by specific learning disabilities, emotional or social difficulties and/or disabilities, within the meaning of Article 2 of the Act on the Affairs of Disabled People, as well as pupils with dyslexia, suffering from long-term illnesses or with health-related special needs, shall be entitled to special learning support based on an assessment of their special needs.

☐ Pupils who because of an accident or long-term illness are unfit to attend school, as determined by a physician, shall be entitled to receive instruction for medical reasons either at home or at a medical facility. The municipality concerned shall be responsible for implementing instruction for medical reasons.

☐ If in the opinion of the a child's parents, headteachers, teachers or other specialists, the child will not be able to receive suitable instruction at a regular compulsory school, the parents can ask for their child to be admitted to a special class in a compulsory school or to a specialised school.

☐ Disputes concerning a pupil's schooling shall be resolved with due regard to the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act. A decision shall be reached after taking into consideration the opinion of experts and the need to protect the overall interests of the child. Any such decision is subject to appeal under Article 47.

☐ The Minister shall issue a Regulation^{o)} containing further provisions on the implementation of this Article and the procedure to be followed. When the Ministry rules on cases referred to it on the basis of this Article, it may issue further instructions on the organisation of the pupil's schooling and the municipality's obligations in relation thereto.

^{o)}Regulation No 585/2010.

Section V Parents

☐ **Article 18** *Parents; treatment of data*

☐ Parents shall safeguard the interests of their children of compulsory school age. Parents shall have the right to choose a compulsory school for their children within their municipality according to the municipality's rules. They shall also be entitled to receive information about the operation of each school and the schooling of their children.

☐ Parents have an obligation to provide the compulsory school with any information regarding their child that is necessary for the operation of the school and in relation to the child's welfare. Personal data acquired in this way or accompanying a child from preschool shall be subject to a strict requirement of confidentiality and to procedures in accordance with the currently applicable Act on the Protection of Privacy as regards the Processing of Personal

Data. Parents shall be provided with access to any such data. The treatment of data shall be the responsibility of the headteacher or of other specialists of the municipality according to its further decision. The Minister shall issue a Regulation⁽¹⁾ on the treatment, deletion and dissemination of data and the right of parents to access data about their children. [The right of a parent not having custody of a child to data about the child pursuant to this Act shall be governed by the provisions of Article 52 of the Act in Respect of Children, No 76/2003.]⁽²⁾

☞ Parents shall consult with the compulsory school regarding their children's schooling, monitor and support their education and study progress, and make efforts to ensure that the children come to school rested and that they obey school rules. Parents shall have the opportunity to participate in their child's education and in the work of the school in general.

☞ In the case of parents who are not native speakers of Icelandic or who communicate in sign language, the school shall seek to ensure interpretation of all information necessary for communication between parents and the school pursuant to this Article.

⁽¹⁾Regulation No 897/2009, cf. No 657/2011. ⁽²⁾Act No 38/2009, Article 2.

☞ **Article 19** *Parents' responsibilities*

☞ Parents are responsible for their children's studies and shall monitor their progress in cooperation with the children themselves and their teachers. The parents of a child of compulsory school age are responsible for enrolling the child in school when it reaches that age and for its school attendance. In the case of failure by a child of compulsory school age to attend school, and where this is not due to illness or other objective reasons, the headteacher shall seek solutions and decide on remedial measures. Moreover, the headteacher shall report the case to the relevant child protection authorities. The headteacher shall handle the case in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act. Any decision is subject to appeal under Article 47.

☞ The [Ministry]⁽¹⁾ may issue a ruling requiring a municipality to provide specified instruction to a particular pupil, including by admitting the pupil to a particular school within the municipality.

⁽¹⁾Act No 91/2011, Article 1.

Section VI Buildings and facilities of compulsory schools

☞ **Article 20** *[School buildings]*⁽¹⁾

☞ The Municipal Council shall prepare the construction of school buildings in consultation with the School Board and the School Council. The municipality concerned shall provide the initial investment costs for the construction of compulsory schools. Municipalities are also responsible for implementing and financing the maintenance of school buildings, as well as for the renewal and maintenance of equipment. Space shall be specifically reserved for specialist services for children with special needs and for working facilities for staff.

☞ [All compulsory schools shall make the necessary arrangements for the operation of a school library or ensure by other means that its pupils have access to the services of such a library, which shall serve as an information centre for pupils and teachers. School libraries shall be equipped with books and audiovisual materials in addition to other library resources related to subjects and subject areas covered by the National Curriculum Guide for Compulsory Schools.]⁽¹⁾

☞ Buildings and grounds of compulsory schools must correspond to the requirements of this Act, the Working Conditions Protection Act and the National Curriculum Guide for Compulsory Schools. Buildings and other facilities shall conform to the objective of ensuring the safety and well-being of pupils and staff, for example in terms of suitable furnishings, acoustics, lighting and ventilation.

☞ Municipalities shall consult with interested parties within the school community and with members of the local community regarding the design, construction and renovation of

compulsory school premises.

☐The Minister shall, in consultation with the Association of Local Authorities, issue a Regulation²⁾ on the premises and equipment of compulsory schools, containing further requirements regarding facilities, equipment, the prevention of accidents and general safety measures within the buildings and grounds of compulsory schools.

¹⁾Act No 91/2011, Article 4. ²⁾Regulation No 657/2009.

☐**Article 21** *Administration of school buildings*

☐The headteacher shall assume responsibility for the daily administration of school buildings as further determined by the Municipal Council.

☐The Municipal Council may, in consultation with the headteacher, allocate school buildings or any part thereof to other uses, provided that this does not interfere with the legal use of the buildings.

☐**Article 22** *School transport*

☐Municipalities shall be responsible for organising school transport where appropriate, and for its financing. The Minister shall issue further rules¹⁾ concerning school transport in consultation with the Association of Local Authorities. School transport shall be provided to pupils free of charge.

¹⁾Regulation No 656/2009, cf. No 882/2009, cf. No 605/2012.

☐**Article 23** *School meals*

☐During school hours, compulsory schools shall offer meals corresponding to national dietary goals to pupils. Municipalities may charge fees for school meals based on special rates which they set.

☐Decisions on rates pursuant to this Article are subject to appeal under Article 47.

Section VII Study content; study arrangements; study programmes; assessment; operating period

☐**Article 24** *National Curriculum Guide*

☐The Minister shall issue a National Curriculum Guide for Compulsory Schools¹⁾, which shall be revised at regular intervals. The Guide shall include further provisions on the child-rearing role of compulsory schools and the main strategies as regards teaching and the organisation thereof, in accordance with the role of compulsory schools as outlined in Article 2. The National Curriculum Guide shall include an emphasis on:

- a. pupils' self-awareness, moral conscience, social awareness and awareness of civil responsibility and duties;
- b. physical and mental well-being, a healthy lifestyle and a responsible attitude to living beings and the environment;
- c. training in the use of Icelandic in all studies;
- d. dramatic and artistic expression;
- e. pupils' ability to understand causal relationships and draw logical conclusions;
- f. comprehension and productive and creative work, innovation and entrepreneurial studies;
- g. a good balance between academic and practical studies;
- h. the use of play as a means of learning and development for children;
- i. education that is useful to pupils in their daily lives as well as in future studies and employment;
- j. the preparation of both sexes equally for active participation in society, family life and work;
- k. a variety of ways to acquire knowledge through the use of technological media, information and communication technology, and library and source work;
- l. school counselling and the presentation of different occupations and study programmes as an aid in the choice of future studies and employment.

☐ In devising the National Curriculum Guide, in the planning of learning and teaching, and in developing and selecting learning materials, special care shall be taken to ensure equal opportunities to learn for all pupils and that they are given the possibility to choose between subject-matters and approaches in their own learning.

☐ Learning and teaching objectives and the manner of operation of compulsory schools shall be such as to prevent discrimination on the basis of national origin, gender, sexual orientation, place of residence, social background, religion, health, handicap or general situation.

☐ In all their work, schools shall promote a healthy lifestyle and take into account the personality, degree of maturity, abilities, skills and interests of each individual.

^{o)}Notice No 760/2011. Notice No 364/2013.

☐ **Article 25** *Learning objectives*

☐ The National Curriculum Guide shall outline the main objectives of learning and teaching, the structure and organisation of the studies, as well as the proportional division of time between different subjects and subject areas in compulsory schools. Maximum effort shall be made to ensure a cohesive education, whilst allowing each compulsory school to decide whether to teach individual subjects and subject areas as separate or integrated courses. The National Curriculum Guide shall define learning outcomes within each subject area. Pupils shall be given the possibility to fulfil the learning objectives of individual subjects and subject areas in different ways. The National Curriculum Guide shall set performance criteria making it possible to determine when a pupil has completed an individual subject or subject area. It shall also define criteria for pupils who complete compulsory school in less than 10 years. The National Curriculum Guide shall make provisions for the cooperation of compulsory schools with preschools and upper secondary schools and the approach to be used to help pupils adjust and move between school levels.

☐ The National Curriculum Guide shall stipulate the content and structure of education in Icelandic, Icelandic as a second language or Icelandic sign language, mathematics, English, Danish or another Nordic language, arts and crafts, the natural sciences, physical education, the social sciences, equal rights, religion, life skills, and information and communication technology.

☐ **Article 26** *Choice in school education*


☐ From the start of compulsory schooling, pupils shall have a certain amount of choice regarding their education, including between topics, learning methods and subjects, in accordance with the criteria of the National Curriculum Guide for Compulsory Schools and the organisation of the school concerned. The objective shall be to make pupils responsible for their own learning and introduce flexibility in schooling. The studies can also be partly composed of distance education and web-based learning.

☐ [At the lower secondary level, i.e. in grades 8 to 10, the pupils' choice of subjects and subject areas shall account for up to one-fifth of their study time, in accordance with further criteria laid down in the National Curriculum Guide for Compulsory Schools. In grades 8 to 10, schools may schedule varying proportions of elective courses in each grade, and limit pupils' choice partly to specified subject areas.]^{o)}

☐ Formal education outside compulsory schools, for example in musical schools, may be evaluated as part of compulsory education as further stipulated in the National Curriculum Guide for Compulsory Schools. Where a pupil engages in such studies, the Municipal Council concerned shall not be obliged to bear any related cost, despite the studies being recognised as a replacement of part of compulsory education. Temporary participation in employment, social activities, sports or organised voluntary work may also be evaluated as part of formal education, provided that this is consistent with the objectives of schooling.


☐ Compulsory school pupils shall be entitled to be admitted to studies in particular subjects at the upper secondary level while still attending compulsory school, provided that they


demonstrate the necessary competence.⁽²⁾ The headteacher of the compulsory school concerned may authorise the pupil to pursue such studies outside the school based on criteria laid down in the National Curriculum Guide. The headteacher's decision pursuant to this Article shall be governed by the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act.


 A refusal to evaluate studies or to issue an authorisation pursuant to this Article is subject to appeal under Article 47. The [Ministry]⁽³⁾ may issue a ruling ordering the headteacher of a compulsory school to authorise a pupil to enrol in studies at the upper secondary level pursuant to the fourth paragraph.


⁽¹⁾Act No 91/2011, Article 5. ⁽²⁾See also Act No 91/2011, Transitional Provisions. ⁽³⁾Act No 126/2011, Article 492.

Article 27 Assessment

 The assessment of the academic results and progress of pupils shall be a regular part of schooling. The purpose of the assessment is to evaluate how successfully pupils meet the objectives of the National Curriculum Guide and their individual learning objectives, to encourage pupils to make progress and to determine which among them may be in need of special support. More detailed provisions on assessment shall be laid down in the National Curriculum Guide for Compulsory Schools.


 Information about individual pupils' assessment may only be given to the pupils themselves and to their parents. Nevertheless, the information may be provided where pupils transfer between schools and in relation to their admission to upper secondary school, subject to a strict requirement of confidentiality and to procedures in accordance with the currently applicable Act on the Protection of Privacy as regards the Processing of Personal Data.


 Pupils and their parents shall be entitled to receive information on assessment results, assessment methods and assessment techniques, including the right to view assessed assignments and examination papers. They shall also be entitled to an oral explanation of the assessment and to the revision by the compulsory school of the results of the assessment. No such revision shall be considered equivalent to an administrative appeal within the meaning of the Administrative Procedures Act.

 The Minister shall issue a Regulation⁽¹⁾ containing further provisions on the handling of assessment results in compulsory schools and the exchange of information on assessment where pupils transfer between schools and in relation to their admission to upper secondary school, as well as on the right of parents to access such information.


⁽¹⁾Regulation No 897/2009, cf. No 657/2011.


Article 28 Operating period

 The instruction period for pupils in compulsory schools shall be at least nine months every school year. This shall include at least 180 days of school attendance. The headteacher shall decide upon the division of this period between days of instruction and other days of school attendance in consultation with the School Council and after obtaining the approval of the School Board.

 The minimum weekly instruction time for pupils in compulsory schools shall be:

- a. 1,200 minutes in grades 1 to 4;
- b. 1,400 minutes in grades 5 to 7;
- c. 1,480 minutes in grades 8 to 10.

 The more detailed arrangement of weekly instruction time shall be decided by the headteacher in consultation with the School Council. Daily and weekly school hours of pupils in compulsory schools shall be decided so as to ensure a continuous school day with appropriate breaks which does not lead to unreasonable workload considering the age and maturity of the pupils.

 Minimum weekly instruction time pursuant to the second paragraph may be deviated from temporarily provided that this is compensated by providing pupils with additional instruction corresponding to the deviation within the same school year.

[Municipal Councils may decide to fix the dates of certain school holidays for all schools within the municipality in consultation with interested parties.]⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 91/2011, Article 6.

[**Article 29** *School curriculum guide; operating plan*

[Each compulsory school shall issue a school curriculum guide and an operating plan. The headteacher shall be responsible for the adoption of these documents and shall write them in consultation with teachers. A school curriculum guide is a more detailed version of the National Curriculum Guide for Compulsory Schools as regards objectives, study content and assessment, the manner of operation, and evaluation and quality assurance in schools. The school curriculum guide shall take into consideration the specific character and special circumstances of the compulsory school concerned and shall be revised at regular intervals.

[The annual operating plan shall include details on the school calendar, including the duration of Christmas and Easter holidays and other winter holidays, pupils' study schedule, school rules, support services, social activities, and any other aspects of the annual operation of the school. The school's operating plan shall be submitted annually to the School Board for approval, and its entry into force shall be confirmed by the Board where it is clear that it has been drawn up in accordance with law, regulations, the National Curriculum Guide, collective agreements and the Municipal Council's decisions regarding the organisation of schooling.

[The headteacher shall be responsible for the implementation of the above provisions as well as for ensuring appropriate discussion within the school and in the School Council and for keeping the School Board informed about the execution of the plans. The operating plan and the school curriculum guide shall be made accessible to all members of the school community.

[**Article 30** *[School atmosphere*

[All members of the school community shall contribute to the creation and maintenance of a good working environment and a positive school atmosphere.

[Headteachers and teachers shall consult with parents regarding the behaviour, well-being and social interactions of their children. Similarly, parents shall consult with the school on the schooling of their children. The same shall apply to other legal guardians of pupils of the school concerned.

[Compulsory schools shall maintain a coherent policy on ways to prevent cases of physical, verbal and social aggression within the school. Schools shall also maintain a plan on the implementation of the statutory reporting requirement of the Child Protection Act, and on the response to cases involving bullying, other types of aggression or social exclusion. Part of the implementation of the plan shall be for each school to establish school rules. School rules shall cover aspects such as general conduct, social interactions, punctuality, diligence in study and a healthy lifestyle. The rules shall also specify how the school intends to respond to cases of violation of the rules.

[The Minister may lay down further provisions on the responsibilities and obligations of members of the school community, in a Regulation⁽¹⁾ issued pursuant to this Article and Article 14 jointly. The Regulation shall include provisions on a professional council set up by the Ministry as an advisory body on bullying.]⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾Regulation No 1040/2011. ⁽²⁾Act No 91/2011, Article 7.

[**Article 31** *Cost to pupils of attending compulsory school*

[Instruction provided to pupils in public compulsory schools as part of compulsory schooling shall be free of charge, and neither pupils nor their parents may be charged fees for instruction, services, learning materials or other materials that pupils are required to use in their studies where this is consistent with the provisions of this Act and with the National Curriculum Guide. The same shall apply to any upper secondary level courses attended by compulsory school pupils, provided that such studies are defined as part of their compulsory

schooling. However, public authorities shall not be required to provide pupils with materials for personal use, such as writing implements and paper.

☐☐Where a compulsory school pupil pursues studies at an upper secondary school that are defined as part of compulsory schooling, the cost of the upper secondary level studies shall be governed by the provisions of the Upper Secondary Education Act. In such cases, the municipalities concerned shall pay the cost of learning materials and admission, as well as any materials fee. Any further implementation and organisational details shall be a matter of negotiation between the compulsory and upper secondary schools concerned.

☐☐The [Ministry]⁽¹⁾ must provide compulsory schools with learning materials corresponding to the main objectives of learning and teaching at the compulsory level as laid down in the National Curriculum Guide.

☐☐No fees may be collected from pupils for trips classified as field trips or which qualify otherwise as part of their compulsory schooling. However, subsistence fees may be charged for pupils' study trips, in consultation with parents.

☐☐Decisions on the collection of fees pursuant to this Article are subject to appeal under Article 47.

⁽¹⁾Act No 91/2011, Article 1.

☐☐**Article 32** *Completion of compulsory school*

☐☐Upon completion of compulsory school, pupils shall receive a certificate attesting to the completion of compulsory schooling pursuant to this Act. The certificate shall contain the pupil's assessment report for studies during the final year of compulsory school.

☐☐The headteacher shall determine whether a pupil has completed compulsory schooling and assume responsibility for the pupil's graduation from compulsory school. A pupil may be permitted to graduate from compulsory school before completing 10 years of compulsory schooling, provided that the pupil meets study requirements for compulsory schools as described by the final learning outcomes contained in the National Curriculum Guide. Further provisions on the implementation of this Article shall be laid down in the National Curriculum Guide for Compulsory Schools. The headteacher's decision in this regard shall be governed by the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act. Decisions to refuse graduation from compulsory school pursuant to this Article are subject to appeal by parents under Article 47.

☐☐**Article 33** *Extra-curricular activities and extended school day*

☐☐Pupils at every compulsory school shall be given the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular and social activities. Extra-curricular and social activities may be organised either as part of daily school work or outside normal school hours. The Municipal Council may furthermore offer compulsory school pupils an extended school day outside daily teaching hours.

☐☐Municipalities may charge fees for extended school days and for extra-curricular activities based on special rates which they set. Decisions on rates pursuant to this Article are subject to appeal under Article 47.

☐☐**Article 34** *Innovation Fund for schools*

☐☐An Innovation Fund shall support development and innovation in schools in accordance with official policy and the National Curriculum Guide. Contributions to the Fund shall be as determined in the annual Budget Act. The [Ministry]⁽¹⁾ shall administer the Fund and issue a Regulation⁽²⁾ on the allocation of grants. The Fund shall be common to preschools, compulsory schools and upper secondary schools.

☐☐By means of a Regulation, the administration of the Fund and the award of grants may be entrusted to an institution under the authority of the Ministry or to another competent party.

⁽¹⁾Act No 91/2011, Article 1. ⁽²⁾Regulation No 242/2009.

Section VIII Evaluation and quality assurance in compulsory schools

Article 35 *Objective*

- The objective of evaluation and quality assurance in compulsory schools is as follows:
- To make information on schooling, its results and its development available to educational authorities, school staff, receiving schools, parents and pupils;
 - To ensure that schools are operated in compliance with law, regulations and the National Curriculum Guide for Compulsory Schools;
 - To increase the quality of learning and schooling and contribute to improvements;
 - To ensure that pupils' rights are respected and that they receive the service they are entitled to according to law.

Article 36 *Internal evaluation*

Each compulsory school shall systematically evaluate the results and the quality of schooling pursuant to Article 35 with the active participation of school staff, pupils and parents as appropriate in each case.

Compulsory schools shall make public information about their internal evaluation, its relation to the school curriculum guide and any planned improvements.

Article 37 *External evaluation by municipalities*

Municipalities shall perform evaluation and quality assurance in schools, cf. Articles 5 and 6, and provide the Ministry with information regarding the operation of schools, internal evaluation by schools, external evaluation by municipalities, the implementation of their school policy and any planned improvements.

Municipalities shall follow up on internal and external evaluation in order for it to lead to improvement in schooling.

Article 38 *External evaluation by the [Ministry]⁽¹⁾*

The [Ministry]⁽²⁾ shall analyse and disseminate information about compulsory schooling based on information provided by municipalities pursuant to Article 37 and on data collected by the Ministry itself.

The [Ministry]⁽²⁾ shall establish a three-year plan on surveys and assessments aimed at providing information on the implementation of this Act and of the National Curriculum Guide for Compulsory Schools and on other aspects of schooling. The [Ministry]⁽²⁾ shall furthermore organise the participation in international educational and comparative studies.

The Minister shall issue a Regulation⁽³⁾ on internal and external evaluation and the obligation of municipalities to provide information, after consulting with the Association of Local Authorities.

⁽¹⁾Act No 126/2011, Article 492. ⁽²⁾Act No 91/2011, Article 1. ⁽³⁾Regulation No 658/2009.

Article 39 *Coordinated assessment*

The [Ministry]⁽¹⁾ shall organise coordinated assessment in compulsory schools, provide schools with national coordinated examinations for this purpose and be responsible for the implementation of the coordinated assessment.

All pupils in grades 4 and 7 of compulsory school shall undergo national coordinated examinations in Icelandic and mathematics. Pupils in the first term of grade 10 shall undergo national coordinated examinations in Icelandic, mathematics and English. Other examinations shall take place as decided by the Minister.

Where objectively justified and as consented by parents, the headteacher may exempt pupils from undergoing national coordinated examinations in individual examination subjects in grades 4, 7 and 10.

The Educational Testing Institute or other competent party, as decided by the Minister, shall be charged with the development and implementation of coordinated assessment and examinations pursuant to this Article. The Minister shall issue a Regulation⁽²⁾ containing more detailed provisions on the organisation and implementation of coordinated assessment,

examinations and surveys in compulsory schools and on individual pupils' exemptions from coordinated assessment, in accordance with this Article.

¹⁰Act No 91/2011, Article 1. ¹¹Regulation No 435/2009, cf. No 662/2009.

Section IX Specialist services and support structures of compulsory schools

Article 40 *Structure and implementation of specialist services*

Municipalities shall ensure the provision of specialist services in compulsory schools, decide on the organisation of such services and promote their provision within each compulsory school. Specialist services comprise on the one hand support for pupils and their families, and on the other hand support for the work carried out in compulsory schools and for their staff.

From the start of each pupil's schooling, compulsory schools shall implement preventive measures consisting of screenings and observations intended to ensure that pupils receive adequate instruction and learning support. Moreover, pupils with psychological or social difficulties liable to affect their schooling shall receive appropriate diagnosis. All observations by a school concerning individual pupils shall be carried out in consultation with and with the consent of their parents; no fee may be charged for such observations. The results of such observations shall be reported to the parents.

A diagnosis pursuant to this Article may be requested by parents or, in consultation with them and with their consent, by the school's headteacher, teachers or health service staff. The specialist services shall ensure that the diagnosis is carried out, submit a proposal on appropriate action to the headteacher, monitor any measures to improve the situation, and evaluate the results.

Within each school, the headteacher shall coordinate the work of those responsible for individual pupils' cases in the fields of specialist services, school counselling and school health services through the establishment of a Pupil Welfare Council. Consultation with the municipality's social services and child protection authorities regarding individual pupils' cases shall also be promoted as deemed necessary. [A temporary exemption from individual provisions of the Regulation on Pupil Welfare Councils may be requested through an application addressed to the Ministry and accompanied by a reasoned statement. Any exemption must be justified by objective reasons, such as a small student population or special circumstances.]¹²

Municipalities operating compulsory schools shall instigate collaboration between specialist services, social services, child protection authorities and health care services in the municipality concerning pupils with special needs or long-term illnesses. Municipalities shall also take the initiative for the collaboration of specialist services with those responsible for specialised diagnostic and treatment solutions made available to individual pupils by the central government.

In implementing specialist services, municipalities shall lay particular weight on promoting good contacts between preschools, compulsory schools and upper secondary schools in the interest of continuity of schooling.

The Minister shall issue a Regulation¹³ on specialist services and the operation of Pupil Welfare Councils, in consultation with the Association of Local Authorities.

A decision to refuse a parent's request for diagnosis pursuant to the third paragraph is subject to appeal under Article 47. The Ministry may issue a ruling requiring a particular pupil to be provided with diagnosis pursuant to this Article.

¹²Act No 91/2011, Article 8. ¹³Regulation No 584/2010, cf. No 986/2010.

Article 41 *School health services*

School health services in compulsory schools shall be governed by the currently applicable provisions of the Health Services Act. The structure and arrangement of school health

services in compulsory schools shall be decided in consultation with the School Board and the headteacher.

☐The headteacher shall ensure that pupils receive school health services within the school in accordance with the arrangement decided upon pursuant to the first paragraph.

☐Municipalities shall bear the initial capital cost of premises intended for health services in schools and assume responsibility for the operation thereof. The salaries of the staff of school health services, as well as any specific costs incurred by those services, shall be borne by the budget of the local health care centre as ‘other costs’ associated with the provision of primary health care services; staff shall be recruited on the same basis.

☐**Article 42** *Special classes*

☐Municipalities may set up special classes in compulsory schools or establish special schools in those cases where regular learning or teaching approaches do not adequately serve pupils’ needs or interests. The purpose of such classes and schools is to provide pupils with a specialised learning environment for shorter or longer periods of time, while at the same time emphasising the provision of support and pedagogical counselling to staff at regular compulsory schools.

Section X Accreditation of compulsory schools; common operation; home schooling

☐**Article 43** *Accreditation of compulsory schools operated by others than municipalities*

☐The Minister may provide accreditation to compulsory schools or parts thereof, see definition in Article 1, which are operated by others than municipalities, whether as non-profit organisations, as companies limited by shares or as other recognised legal forms, subject to the obtention of the municipality’s consent regarding the establishment of the school [and the related financial contributions].^(a)The municipality may limit its consent to a maximum number of pupils [and to the further elaboration of certain elements of the service contract drawn up pursuant to the second paragraph].^(a)Such compulsory schools shall be governed, as appropriate, by the same laws and regulations as apply to compulsory schools pursuant to Article 1. This entails an obligation on the part of the school concerned to comply with the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act when making decisions that are subject to appeal under Article 47. However, this shall not apply to decisions on any fees to be charged.

☐[Municipalities shall sign service contracts with all compulsory schools covered by this Article. The service contract shall contain provisions on the school’s priorities, evaluation and quality assurance measures, financial relations, and the applicability of the contract, including a trial period. The contract shall also specify whether the service provider is permitted to charge fees to parents and in what measure this extends to teaching and school meals. Where appropriate, the contract shall also cover the organisation of specialist services and school transport. Every compulsory school which has obtained the accreditation of the Ministry shall be entitled to being offered a service contract by the Municipal Council concerned.]^(a)

☐Compulsory schools which have obtained accreditation pursuant to the first paragraph shall be entitled to a contribution from the municipal budget for each pupil who has legal residence in the municipality in which the school operates. The contribution shall amount to at least 75 per cent of the weighted average total operating cost per pupil in all compulsory schools operated by Icelandic municipalities, as calculated annually by Statistics Iceland. This percentage shall apply to schools with up to 200 pupils; for each additional pupil, however, the contribution shall be at least 70 per cent. Calculations by Statistics Iceland of costs pursuant to this Article shall take into account the change in price levels.

☐The Minister may issue a Regulation^(a) on the implementation of this Article in consultation with the Association of Local Authorities and Statistics Iceland. The Regulation shall include further details on accreditation requirements, the formalities involved, [the form and content of service contracts, including the allocation of any operating surplus attributable to public

funds],⁽¹⁾ information to be provided to municipalities and to the Ministry, the supervision of operations, [the withdrawal of accreditation, and the termination of a service contract for breach].⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 91/2011, Article 9. ⁽²⁾Regulation No 699/2012.

Article 44 *Experimental schools*

The Minister may authorise municipalities and privately run compulsory schools to operate experimental schools or to experiment with particular aspects of schooling by derogation from the provisions of this Act, of any Regulation issued on the basis thereof, and of the National Curriculum Guide for Compulsory Schools. Such experiments shall always be subject to reasonable time limits and to a requirement for a post-experiment evaluation.

Financial support may be provided for experimental schools as well as for special innovations, to the extent permitted by the Budget Act at each time.

Article 45 *Common operation*

Two or more municipalities may cooperate in running compulsory schools, cf. Section VIII of the Local Authorities Act. An agreement shall be concluded between the municipalities concerning the role of the School Board set up pursuant to Article 6. Where municipalities choose to run a compulsory school in the form of an inter-municipal cooperative society pursuant to Article 82 of the Local Government Act, the tasks of the School Board shall be entrusted to the board of the inter-municipal cooperative society, unless the society sets up a special board to carry out that role on its behalf. The agreement on the establishment of the inter-municipal cooperative society shall contain provisions on any such arrangement.

Where municipal cooperation on compulsory schooling involves the attendance by children from a particular municipality of a school operated by another municipality, any related agreement between the municipalities shall be governed by the provisions of Article 5. Where a considerable number of children from one municipality attends school in another municipality on this basis, the municipalities concerned may decide in the ordinances on the government of each municipality to appoint a representative elected by the Municipal Council of the municipality where the children have their legal residence to the School Board of the receiving municipality, with the right to speak and propose motions.

Municipalities may decide to operate a compulsory school, a preschool and a music school as one unit led by one headteacher after obtaining the opinion of the relevant School Boards. The director of such an institution shall be the holder of a certificate to teach at the preschool and/or compulsory school level. The Municipal Council may decide to join in one council the operations of the School Council, cf. Article 8 of this Act, and the Parents' Council, cf. Article 11 of the Preschool Act. This provision shall also apply to schools operated pursuant to the first paragraph. The united school shall in other respects operate according to legislation applicable to the respective school levels.

Article 46 *Exemptions*

The Minister may grant accreditation to compulsory schools and to study programmes within regular compulsory schools operated in accordance with recognised foreign or international curriculum guides and study arrangements.

Parents wishing to obtain an exemption from Article 3 in order to provide partial or total home schooling to their children shall apply for such an exemption to their municipality. The headteacher may grant an exemption having consulted with the School Board and the school's specialist services. Children who receive home schooling shall be exempt from compulsory schooling pursuant to Article 3 but shall be subject to supervision and regular assessment, and must undergo harmonised examinations as provided for in this Act.

The Municipal Council's decision pursuant to the second paragraph is subject to appeal under Article 47. The [Ministry]⁽¹⁾ may issue a ruling ordering a municipality to provide the parents of a child with authorisation pursuant to the second paragraph.

[The Minister shall issue a Regulation⁽²⁾ on the requirements for home schooling at the compulsory school level and on the accreditation of compulsory schools pursuant to this article.]⁽³⁾Municipalities shall notify the Ministry of all authorisations provided pursuant to this Article.

⁽¹⁾Act No 91/2011, Article 1. ⁽²⁾Regulation No 531/2009. ⁽³⁾Act No 91/2011, Article 10.

Section XI Dispute resolution

Article 47 Right of appeal

Decisions on the rights and duties of individual pupils made on the basis of Article 5, fourth paragraph; Article 14, fourth paragraph; Article 15, third and fourth paragraphs; Article 17, fifth paragraph; Article 19, first paragraph; Article 23, first paragraph; Article 26, fourth paragraph; Article 31, fourth paragraph; Article 32, second paragraph; Article 33, second paragraph; Article 40, third paragraph; and Article 46, second paragraph are subject to appeal to the Minister. Appeals shall be governed by the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act.

The Municipal Council may decide in the ordinance on the government and administration of the municipality that any appeal pursuant to the first paragraph must be preceded by a referral to the School Board or other specified entity within the municipality's administration. In its application of this provision, the Municipal Council shall determine whether this right of appeal is to apply to particular categories of decisions pursuant to the first paragraph, or to any such decision, and specify whether such decisions on the part of independently-run compulsory schools in the municipality, cf. Article 43, are to be subject to appeal in the same manner. Appeal procedures at the level of the municipality shall be governed by the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act.

Section XII Entry into force

Article 48 This Act shall enter into force on 1 July 2008. ...

Transitional provisions

I. Compulsory schools that are already in operation pursuant to Article 56 of the Compulsory School Act No 66/1995, as amended by Article 22 of Act No 98/2006, shall be entitled to a financial contribution from the municipal budget pursuant to this Act despite not having obtained specific accreditation by the Minister. However, the municipality may limit the contribution to a maximum number of pupils.

The government's stake in compulsory school buildings previously owned, in whole or in part, by the State shall be written off in 15 equal instalments in the period 1996 to 2010 and added to the balance sheet of the municipalities responsible for the operation of the schools and the maintenance of school premises. In the case of premises formerly used for the operation of a school but no longer used for that purpose, the government's stake shall remain unchanged.

II. Local authorities shall pay an amount equal to 1.3 per cent of their teachers' and headteachers' base salaries into a special fund administered and maintained by the Association of Local Authorities. The fund shall be used to pay the salaries of teachers and headteachers of compulsory schools during study leaves lasting up to one year. The fund shall also manage the government's financial contributions to lifelong learning schemes for teachers and headteachers. The Association of Local Authorities shall appoint five members to the fund's board, two of which shall be nominated by the Icelandic Teachers' Union and three by the Association of Local Authorities. The board shall set its own rules of procedure and make them public.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the first paragraph, it may be decided to pay financial

contributions for teachers' and school administrators' study leaves into a special fund agreed upon in collective agreements between municipalities and their negotiating partners. Appropriations in the Budget Act towards lifelong learning schemes for teachers and headteachers may be allocated in the same manner.

¶Where municipalities and their negotiating partners have established a fund pursuant to the second paragraph, the Minister shall publish in the B section of the Law and Ministerial Gazette a notice announcing that the fund is to replace the fund provided for in the first paragraph.

¶[Notwithstanding the provisions of the first sentence of the first paragraph, contributions pursuant to that paragraph during the 2012 and 2013 budget years shall be paid from the Municipal Equalisation Fund on behalf of the municipalities. In line with the agreement signed on 5 October 2011, concerning temporary adjustments to the division of tasks between central and local governments, the contribution shall be deducted from the contributions paid by the Municipal Equalisation Fund to municipalities in proportion to population figures on 1 December of the previous year.]¹⁾

¹⁾*Act No 180/2011, Article 3.*

¶III. Regulations, Notices and other administrative provisions laid down pursuant to Act No 66/1995, as amended, shall remain in force, insofar as they are not in conflict with this Act, until the entry into force of new Regulations, Notices or other administrative provisions.¹⁾

¹⁾*See now Regulation No 220/1999.*

¶IV. School boards elected pursuant to the Compulsory School Act No 66/1995 shall retain their mandates.

¶V. ...¹⁾

¹⁾*Act No 34/2009, Article 1.*