

# THE FINNISH UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL

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# THE STRUCTURE OF THE UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL

- a three-year syllabus
- 18 obligatory subjects
- 2/3 (50) obligatory courses
- nongraded system

# MULTILAYERED STEERING OF EDUCATION

- **parliament** – General Upper Secondary Schools Act: subjects and study modules; some subjects and study modules; other regulations
- **government** – aims and distribution of lesson hours
- **Finnish National Board of Education** – the national curriculum
- **(local authority as education provider – political and administrative steering)**
- **education provider** – curriculum
- **schools** - implementation

# MATRICULATION EXAMINATION

- national final examination
- minimum of four exams, often additional exams
- subject based

**THE GOVERNMENT HAS  
DECIDED TO REFORM  
UPPER SECONDARY  
EDUCATION**

**WHY?**

# PROBLEMS OF UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION

- less attractive
- the number of graduations has diminished
- upper secondary education has to meet with versatile needs
- less foreign languages
- less mathematics
- transition to next level takes more time
- courses are fragmented, each course consists of 38 lessons
- students get exhausted

# UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION REFORM

means (November  
2017)

## aims of the reform

- to add attractiveness
- to add studying of mathematics and languages and deepen their knowledge
- to decrease fragmentation, add cross-curricular studies, larger entities
- to decrease students' exhaustion
- to accelerate transition to the next level
- General Upper Secondary Schools Act will be reformed
- subjects into study modules (e.g. science subjects, humanistic and social subjects, languages, mother tongue, arts and physical education)
- division of subjects into courses vanishes
- cross-cultural study units
- essential: who decides the formation of study units? Finnish National Board of Education >< education providers locally

# SCHEDULE OF THE REFORM

- the project 2017 07 01 – 2018 12 31; preparing regulation
- writing a new national curriculum will start in autumn 2018
- introduction of new curricula 2020 08 01