Independent school and politics in Norway

Christian School Association

www.kff.no

General Secretary Jan Erik Sundby
Norway

- 5,2 mill inhab.
- 3% arable land
- 16 humans per km²
- Costal line = 2 and a half laps around the earth
General norwegian politics

• Approximately the same situation with political parties as elsewhere in Europe.

• SV  Socialist – left  7
• DNA  Social Democratic  55
• SP  Agrarian  10
• KrF  Christian Democratic  10
• V  Liberal  9
• H  Conservative / Liberal  48
• Frp  Conservative / Populist  29

2001-2005  2005-2013  2013 -
The political structure

• Parliament (169 m) and Government on national level. (King with only symbolic significance)

• 20 Counties with politically elected council and mayor. Responsible for secondary public schools. (11-13)

• 428 municipals with the same political system as county. Responsible for primary public schools. (1-10)

• National election 2013, 2017 and so on.

• Elections for municipal og county 2015, 2019 a.s.o.
Some figures

Number of independent schools 318
Number of pupils 36,000 4,5% (3% - 7%)

The highest percentage of sec.school because many of these are boarding schools

Economi

  85% govermental support for unusual costs (9,000 – 17,000 Euro)
  60 Euro per pupil and year for investments
  In reality – 70% support from the goverment
  It is strictly forbidden to take any profits – support and all sorts of revenue shall be used only for the benefit of the pupils.
Development in act for independent school

• From appr. 1970 – Independent school act
• On special terms official approval of independent schools with different content than public school.
• 2003 – (C, L, CD)
  • Right to start independent school when the minimum requirements were met. «rights act»
• New Goverment 2005 – «Freeze act»
• 2008 - Settlement about new act for independent schools on the same terms almost as before 2003.
• 2014 – new goverment – some adjustments.
What type of schools can be approved?

These types of schools are mentioned in the law:

a. Religious and humanist  
b. Alternative pedagogy (Steiner and Montessori)  
c. In combination with elite sport  
d. Schools abroad  
e. Schools for pupils with special needs  
f. Schools with special profile
Important considerations for approval

- Consideration about the public school/municipal or the county
- Proper documentation of the type of school
  - In ciricula, special subjects a.s.o.
- Applicants reputation
- Integration
- Economy – reliable budget