

# Finnish Education System

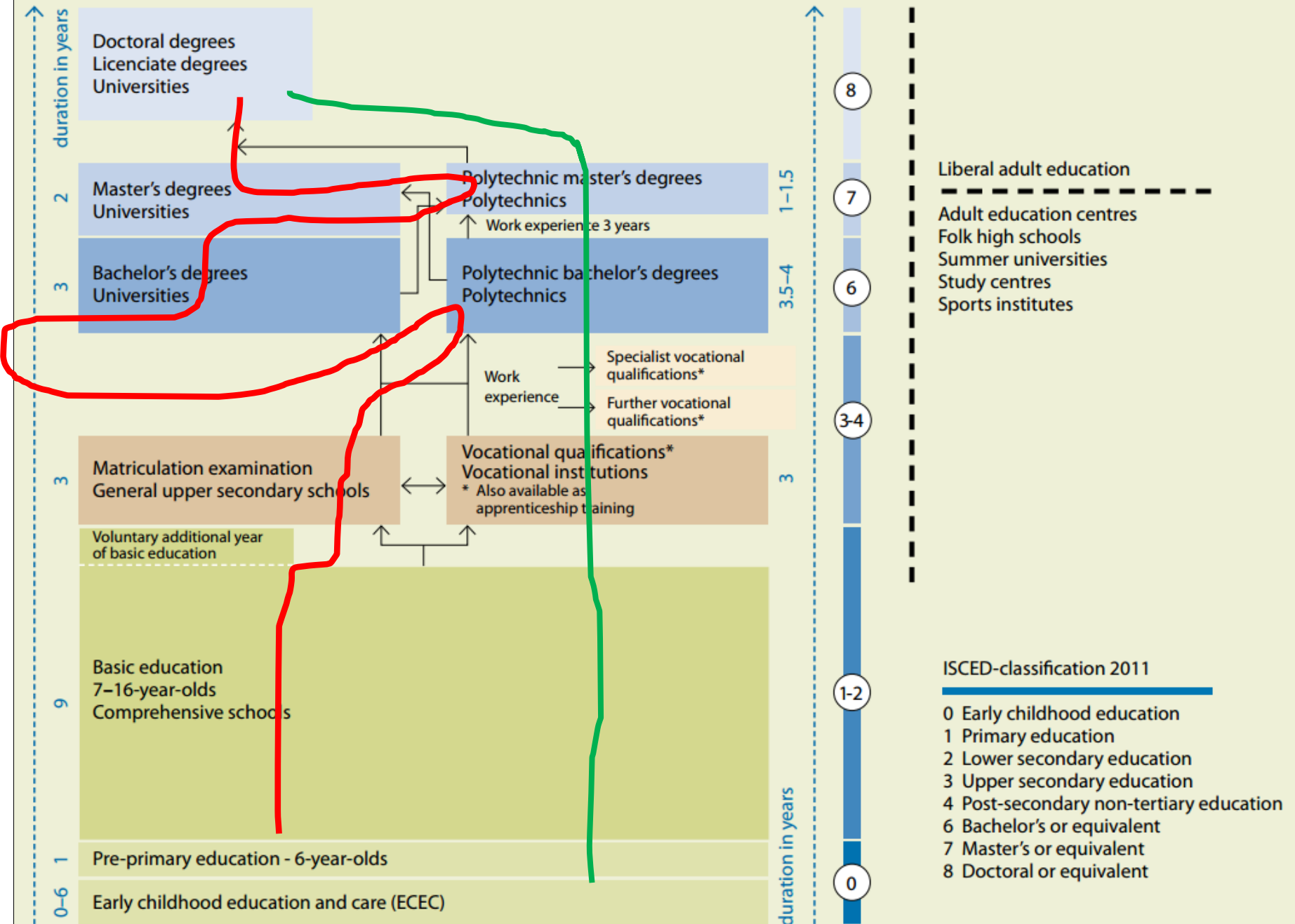
Jerker Polso



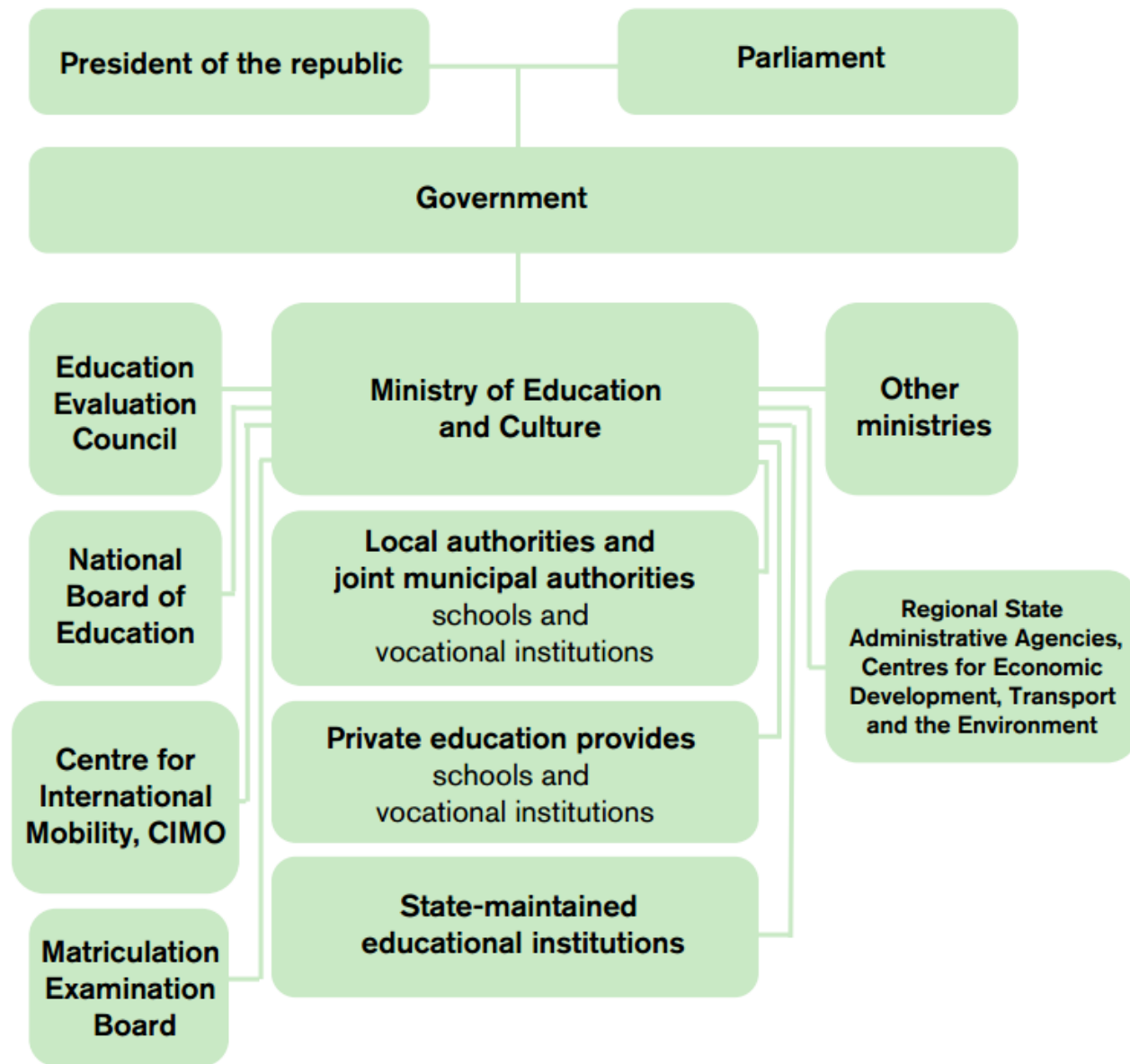
[Finnish Education system - MoE](#)

# Education system in Finland

11/2015



# Administration of basic and upper secondary education



Example of what this could mean in practice

MoE

Head of educational provider

Principal

Teacher

## Distribution of lesson hours in basic education

The minimum number of lessons in annual weekly lessons

Subject	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total	
Mother tongue and literature	14		14			14				42	
A-language	-----				8		8			16	
B-language	-----						6			6	
Mathematics	6		12			14				32	
Environmental Studies	Environmental and natural studies										
Biology and Geography	9			3		7				31	
Physics and Chemistry					2		7				
Health Education							3				
Religion/Ethics	6					5				11	
History and Social Studies	-----				3		7			10	
Music	Arts and practical subjects 26			4-		30			3-		56
Visual arts				4-					4-		
Craft, Technical work, Textile work				4-					7-		
Physical Education				8-					10-		
Home Economics	-----						3			3	
Educational and vocational guidance	-----									2	
Optional subjects										(13)	
Minimum number of hours	19	19	23	23	24	24	30	30	30	222	
Voluntary A-language	-----				(6)			(6)		(12)	

## Jyväskylän kaupungin tuntijako 1.8.2014

Vuosiluokat	1	2	3	4	5	6	yh. 1-6	7	8	9	Yht. 1-9	Valtakunnallinen
Äidinkieli ja kirjallisuus	7	7	5	5	5	5	34	3	3	3	43	42
A-kieli			2	2	2	2	8	2	3	3	16	16
B-kieli								2	2	2	6	6
Matematiikka	3	3	4	4	4	4	22	3	3	4	32	32
Ympäristö- ja luonnontieto	2	2	3	3			10				10	
Biologia ja maantieto					2	2	4	2	2	3	11	
Fysiikka ja kemia					1	1	2	2	3	2	9	31
Terveystieto								1	1	1	3	
Uskonto/ET	1	1	1	2	1	2	8	1	1	1	11	11
Historia ja yhteiskuntaoppi					2	1	3	2	2	3	10	10
<b>Taito- ja taideaineet yht.</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>47</b>				<b>151</b>	<b>56</b>
Musiikki	4->				2->		6->	1			1	7
Kuvataide	4->				2->		6->	2			2	8
Käsityö	4->				4->		8->	3			3	11
Liikunta	8->				4->		12->	2	2	2	6	18
Kotitalous								3			3	3
Oppilaanohjaus									2		2	2
Valinnaiset aineet									13		13	13
<b>Oppilaan viikkotuntimäärä</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>231</b>
<b>Oppilaan vähimmäistuntimäärä</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>222</b>
A2 -kieli				2	2	2	6	2	(2)	(2)	6	12

# Features:

- \* Early intervention
- \* All students entitled to special education (guaranteed by legislation)
- \* No closed doors
- \* High level of trust and freedom (c. teacher education)
- \* High professionalism (c. teacher education)
- \* Traditionally valued in society (c. weak signals)
- \* Very little standardised testing and comparison

# Some common misconceptions:

- \* Yes, kids do have homework, although not as much as in many other countries
- \* Yes, we do have national tests, but they are used for guiding and follow up. Tests are not regular and they are done with sample schools. The information is not public.
- \* Yes, learning is measured, but mostly to plan teaching.
- \* Yes, there is variation between the weakest and the strongest students, but the aim is to have small regional variation and bigger variation in schools to avoid polarisation in the society



# Some common misconceptions corrected:

- \* The school days are usually longer than 4 hours, but smaller kids have shorter days.
- \* There are private schools in Finland (although not as many as in many other countries, they follow the same national curriculum as public schools)
- \* National curriculum is quite detailed, although maybe not as detailed as in many other countries.
- \* The system is not decentralised as such. It is guided from the top and supported by the sides....

# Strong points of Finnish education (my personal opinion)

- \* Early intervention and special education
- \* Highly qualified and motivated teachers
- \* Trust and responsibility
- \* Equity and equality (both among students and among staff)
- \* Evaluation and assessment
- \* Early childhood education (c. reality in classrooms)
- \* Still fairly free curriculum (c. weak signals)
- \* Still fairly thin administration (c. weak signals)

# Where are we going? (my own thoughts...)

- \* New National Curriculum should be operational August 1, 2016 in grades 1 to 6 and the upper grades in the following years – more cross-subject and cross-grade teaching required
- \* Society less homogenous than in the past – new kind of challenges
- \* IT vs. traditional approaches in teaching
- \* Continuous teacher education?