


# Education Act - 2021

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 NORWAY

## Timeline

2020 Legislative process

2021 Legislative process

2022 Completed

**ID number 29075**

## Background

The Education Act (relating to primary and secondary education and training, including VET at EQF level 4) was published in 1998 as a result of great changes in primary and secondary education. Since 1998 it has been amended several times, on average more than once a year. All the changes meant that there was a need for a comprehensive review of the act and how it was used. The government has established an Education Act Committee, with the mandate to look at the regulations for primary and secondary education. The committee was created on 22 September 2017 and submitted proposals for new regulations on 1 December 2019.

## Objectives

The aim of the review is to develop a set of rules that safeguards the objectives and principles of primary and secondary education, while at the same time ensuring that the municipalities and county municipalities, as school owners, have sufficient flexibility to promote quality development in schools.

## Description

The committee proposed a new education act, statutes, guidelines and general principles for the governing of primary and secondary education, including VET.

The committee assessed:

- (a) what factors should be subject to regulation, what is the appropriate level of detail and what should respectively be regulated by law or regulation;
- (b) how to simplify the regulations and facilitate efficient use of resources in primary and secondary education;
- (c) how the regulations should be designed to reduce the need for changes and subsequent interpretations.

The proposals also included updating the inspection framework and guidance.

The public consultation process finished in July 2020.

## 2020 Legislative process

## 2021 Legislative process

In 2021, the new Education Act (NOU2019:23) was processed.

At the end of 2021, a public consultation for a proposal of a new Education Act was published. This Education Act was intended to replace the current one: the proposal was based on the report from the Education Act Committee (NOU 2019: 23 new Education Act) and the more than 700 comments that were registered in the consultation. Proposals from previous White papers have been incorporated. Much of the current law was suggested to continue, some rules have been removed, and some new rules have been introduced. The changes affect both general education and vocational education and training. The aim was to make the law work better for learners, both in terms of rights and readability.

## 2022 Completed

The Education Act was adopted on 31 March.

## Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Research (KD)

## Target group

### Learners

Young people (15-29 years old)

### Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

## Thematic categories

### Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Coordinating VET and other policies

Optimising VET funding

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

## Subsystem

IVET

## Further reading

[White paper 22 \(2015-2016\)](#)

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[Link to public consultation - new Education Act](#)

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[Link to the 1998 Education Act](#)

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[Link to suggested changes in the education act](#)

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[Education Act approved March 2022](#)

## Related policy developments

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**2023 Completed**

### Admission rules for upper secondary education (vocational and general)

In the current regulation, it is possible for county municipalities to determine in their local admissions regulations that up to 50% of the students are admitted based on skills tests, instead of following the ordinary admissions rules based on grades.

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#### Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

#### Subsystem

IVET CVET

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**2023 Completed**

### Expert group for digital learning analysis

An expert group for digital learning analysis was established in autumn 2021 to provide the Ministry of Education and Research with a better basis for decisions about digital learning analytics and adaptive teaching aids, exams and tests in lower and upper secondary education, higher education, a

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#### Type of development

Practical  
measure/Initiative

#### Subsystem

IVET CVET

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**2024 Completed**

### White paper No one left out

The White paper (Meld. St. 32 (2020-21), approved on June 2021, presents a comprehensive policy to include more people in working life and society.

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#### Type of development

Strategy/Action  
plan

#### Subsystem

IVET

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“ … ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Education Act – 2021: Norway. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/29075>