

Reykjavík, October 23rd 2014



KENNARASAMBAND
ÍSLANDS

The Mission of the Teacher's Union of Iceland concerning the teaching profession, the education of teachers and teacher's working conditions

Teachers shape the future. They disseminate important social values to maturing generations, such as notions of democracy, human rights and social equality. Access to education is basic human rights and common good. Public authorities are responsible for the provision of even educational opportunities open to all. It is vital for the education and maturing of children and adolescents and for the sustainable development of society that teachers be respected and enjoy feasible conditions. Teachers play a leading professional role in matters relating to schools and education.

The Teacher Occupation

1. The occupation and conditions of the teaching profession have to be attractive and on par with the conditions of other professions with similar qualifications and responsibility.
2. Counseling and mentoring should be available to all teachers.

Teacher qualification

1. The education of teachers should entail sound initial basic education and mastery in subjects or subject fields, pedagogy and curricula.
2. Their education should comprise a broad spectrum of basic education, teaching practice, induction, lifelong education, professional development and research. These should be the components of the policy concerning the education and training of teachers at all times.

3. Teachers must have ready access to further university education and the opportunity to do so while in service

Preparation for the occupation of a teacher

1. The proportion of teaching practice within the total period of education and the number of units given must be increased and statutised.
2. The ties between teachers' education and their place of work should be strengthened and more financial support given to teaching practice so that future teachers may benefit from the effective mentoring of experienced teachers in real conditions.
3. The mentoring of new teachers in their job ought to be a formal part of the organised teacher training. New teachers should have a guarantee of mentoring and counselling.
4. Teacher trainers must get good training and guidance.

Lifelong Education and Career Development

1. The teaching profession should have free access to a varied offer of permanent education and career development.
2. Increased budgeting is required for continuous professional development and career enhancement and teachers have to have easier access to this both in and outside the school year.
3. More opportunities should be opened for sabbaticals as well as research activities parallel with work in liaison with colleagues, and school and educational institutions.
4. Teachers should be involved in the forming of the policy concerning their own lifelong education and career development.
5. Lifelong education and career development should take account of the needs of the individuals concerned and their schools, professional development and innovations.

Translation: Jón Ingi Hannesson