

The Nordic Region must be the best place in the world for children and young people

In early 2016 the Nordic Council of Ministers established a new cross-sectoral strategy for children and young people. The strategy lays down the vision for the Nordic Council of Ministers' efforts relating to children and young people: The Nordic Region must be the best place in the world for children and young people.

The Nordic School Leaders' Organization (NSF) shares these visions and is committed to enhancing the quality of education across the Nordic Region. We believe that strong school leadership is a crucial driver for creating positive learning environments for fostering student success and supporting the professional growth of teachers. Despite some developmental differences among our countries, there is much that unites us.

To achieve this vision, we propose the following:

1. It is essential to improve the well-being, working conditions and support systems of school leaders to ensure their effective performance and long-term commitment. We urge Nordic societies to provide the necessary support, resources, and recognition to enable school leaders to meet the increasing demands of their role.
2. We believe that the development of school leaders' competencies and knowledge is a national responsibility. We call for the establishment of a national school leader program that offers continuous opportunities for professional development and growth.

3. Developing a culture of learning communities and shared leadership is key to enhancing student outcomes and teacher professional development. We advocate for a collaborative approach to school leadership that promotes trust, transparency, and inclusivity among all stakeholders.
4. Lastly, we acknowledge the significance of a well-functioning team of professionals around students, which requires adequate resources and support. We need qualified teachers who have time to see and follow up with individual students to provide them with opportunities to learn and develop. We also need leaders who have the time and resources to support professional pedagogical development. We urge Nordic societies to prioritize the development of a strong and cohesive team led by competent, motivated, and accessible school leaders.

By prioritizing the development of school leadership in Nordic countries, we can build a more inclusive, equitable, and effective educational system that benefits all students in the Nordic region.

In addition, we recognize the importance of addressing the unique challenges facing our schools, such as those related to language and culture, and we pledge to work together to find innovative and inclusive solutions. Through collaboration and a shared commitment to excellence, we are confident that we can create a brighter future for all Nordic students and educators.

On behalf of the Nordic School Leaders

Helsinki 12.6.2023

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