

THE SCHOOLS

14.1 PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Greenland Parliament lays down the legislative guidelines for the primary schools and their government. The central administrative and educational functions are the responsibility of the Directorate of Culture, Education, Research and the Church.

In the municipalities, the municipal councils lay down the rules and framework for the schools. At each school, a school board has been established. The school boards are responsible for drawing up the plans of action for the schools' activities within the goals and framework laid down by the municipal council. At small schools in the settlements, the settlement administration may act as school board. The members of a school board are from three to five parents, one to two teachers, and one to two pupils who have been elected by the parents, the teachers and the pupils, respectively.

The administrative and educational management of the schools in the individual municipality is carried out by a Superintendent of Schools/a Head Principal

who is also the principal at the biggest school in the municipality. Nuuk, Sisimiut and Ivittuut are exceptions to this rule. In addition, a school principal and deputy school principals are employed relative to the size of the school in question. Three of the largest schools in the settlements have school principals, while the rest have school leaders.

The Home Rule Government, and not the municipalities, is responsible for one remedial school headed by a school principal.

During the school year 2001/02 11,368 pupils attended school. There were 24 town schools, 61 settlement schools and two remedial schools, while some children were taught at sheep farms and hunting outposts.

During the present school year, the *Landsting Order No. 1 of 6th June 1997 on Primary Schools* forms the basis for the education carried out in the schools. As per 1st August 1994 integration of Greenlandic- and Danish-speaking pupils, respectively, was initiated in all classes starting with the pre-schoolers.

Key Table 14.1 Number of pupils in the primary school 1980/81 to 2001/02

	1980/81	1990/91	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Grades 1 - 3	2,458	2,910	3,227	3,388	3,354	3,349	3,322	3,311 ²⁾	3,155
Grades 4 - 9	6,806	4,927	5,473	5,499	5,462	5,794	5,957	6,208 ²⁾	6,162
Grades 10 - 12 ¹⁾	2,465	1,327	1,547	1,609	1,763	1,746	1,672	1,796 ²⁾	1,762
Special classes	85	85	175	223	211	198	213	211	289
Total	11,814	9,249	10,422	10,719	10,790	11,087	11,164	11,315	11,368
<i>In the settlements</i>	<i>2,254</i>	<i>1,764</i>	<i>1,784</i>	<i>1,816</i>	<i>1,831</i>	<i>1,829</i>	<i>1,859</i>	<i>1,928</i>	<i>1,894</i>

Notes: 1) Up until 1991, including pupils in grade 13 (1992/93), 106 pupils (1993/94) and 130 pupils (1994/95). 2) The figures for pupils in 1st to 12th grade also include 211 pupils in special classes.

Source: Directorate of Culture, Education, Research and The Church.

Key Table 14.2 Examinations passed in the primary school 1985-2001

	1985	1990	1995	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Total	3,388	2,267	3,810	3,527	3,963	4,429	3,612	3,672
School-leaving certificate ¹⁾	3,266	1,940	1,935	1,945	2,094	2,020	1,864	1,598
Extended school-leaving certificate	122	327	1,875	1,582	1,869	2,409	1,748	2,074

Note: 1) The figures shows the total number of examinations for each individual subject, thus each student may have been counted several times.

Source: Directorate of Culture, Education, Research and Church Affairs.