



Special Education

Tuire Honkimäki, Special Education Teacher

Helsingin Suomalainen Yhteiskoulu

www.syk.fi

2025

Special Education in Finland



- **Every student aged 6–18 has the right to receive special support and special education.**
 - This also applies to upper secondary schools.
- **Finland's special education system emphasizes inclusive education**
 - students with difficulties receive personalized support in mainstream classrooms
- **This system involves general education teachers, special education teachers, school psychologists, and therapists working together**
- **Support is categorized into general, and special support**
 - Consulting, part-time special education, small groups, or individualized learning plans to help students who need extra help with learning, social skills, or attendance

All students have the right to support for learning difficulties and school attendance when needed.

Teaching arrangements that support everybody



- **Respectful interaction, positive support for behavior**
 - Continuous group-building, inclusion
 - Co-teaching and flexible grouping
 - Consultation with a special education teacher
 - Periodic support based on the needs of the teaching group
 - Differentiation in lessons upward and downward: teaching, tasks, assessment
 - Learning environment
 - Assistant resources
 - Support teaching

Preventive and Early Support

Special education in high school



- Assessment of learning challenges
- **Dyslexia, testing and support**
- Students with neuropsychiatric challenges
 - consulting, individual support
- Challenges with the Finnish language
- Community-based wellbeing work
- **Multi-professional student welfare work**
- **Individual student welfare work**
- **Consultation, pedagogical development**
- **Teaching and guiding study skills**
- Individual support in learning, continuity of support
- Collaborations with Universities
- Small group support
- Co-teaching in support courses
- Planning special arrangements
- Applications and statements for the Matriculation Examination Board
- **Learning support plans**

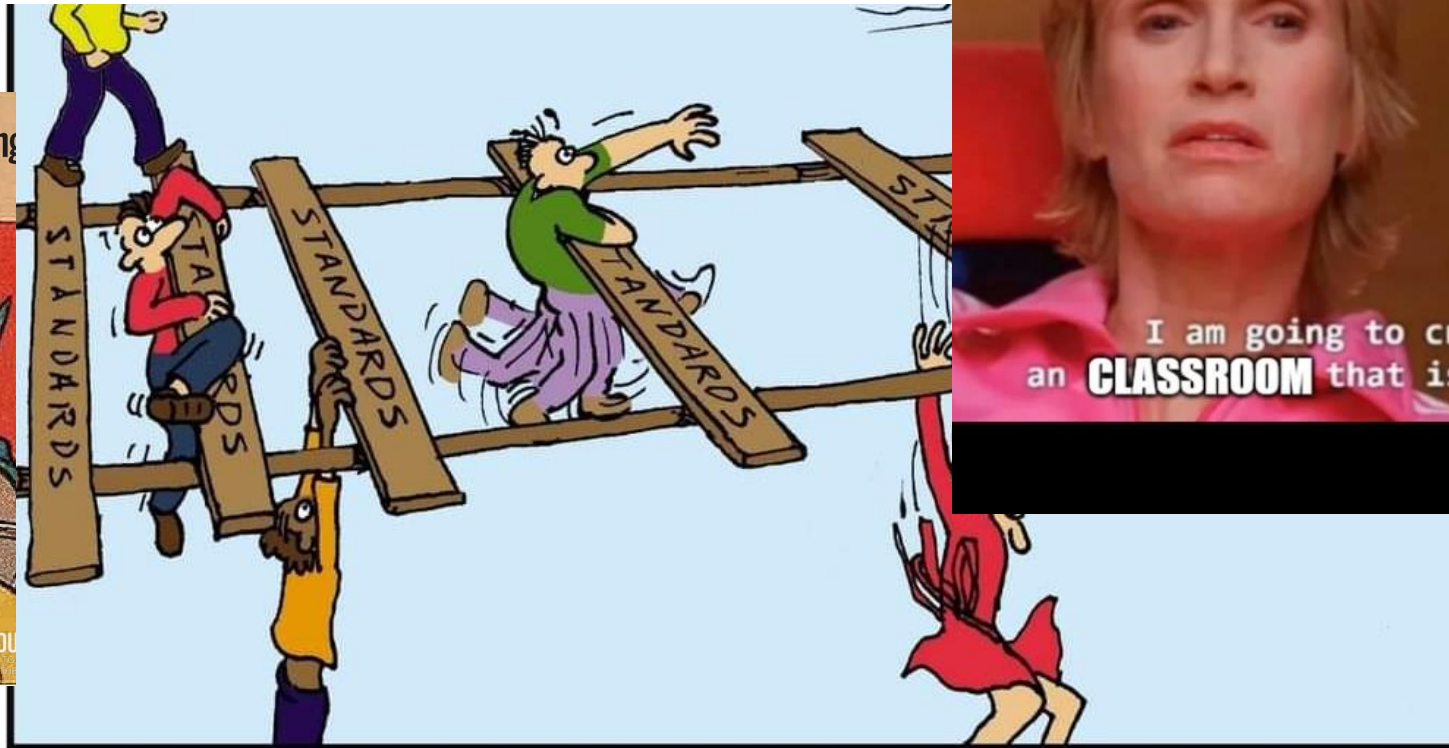
Finnish Education System

- [The Finnish education system](#)
- [Equity in the Finnish Education System](#)



Thank you for listening!

tuire.honkimaki@syk.fi



HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE FALLING