Regional special education – support at the local schools

Regional special education services cover extensive special education in schools as well as regional start-up classes and small teaching group operations.

The special education teacher will provide preventive and remedial education to students with difficulties related to learning, studying, or settling in, or with speech development problems. In addition, the special education teacher will communicate to the other teachers in the school about the various ways of organising teaching and offering support services.

Special education teachers in upper secondary schools map the problems related to learning, organise support courses, and consult the teachers on how to recognise the need for support and to identify the different learning methods.

Start-up classes
The so-called start-up classes offer children who are subject to compulsory education preventive and early support in order to strengthen their readiness for school attendance. The start-up classes in the City of Oulu operate in the Kaukovainio and Nuottasaari schools.

Regional small teaching groups
Regional small teaching groups are an intensified form of support offered in the local schools for students who require a smaller group size and more individual teaching in order to learn. A regional small teaching group operates in each of the eight school districts offering basic education.

For more information on the start-up classes and regional small teaching groups, please visit the online guide for basic education: www.edu.ouka.fi/kouluopropaat

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Special education teachers in upper secondary schools
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Teacher in charge of special education
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Centralised special education services in special schools and regional special groups provide support when the intensified support services of the local schools are not sufficient.

The Heinätori school
The Heinätori unit provides mainly individualized classroom-type special education. The development of the students in the Leinonpuisto unit has been extensively delayed. Teaching is individualized either per subject or per functional domain.

The Kajaanintulli school
The Kajaanintulli unit provides mainly classroom-type special education according to the national core curriculum for students that require support with their social skills.

The hospital school unit provides education in the Oulu University Hospital for young patients who are subject to compulsory education.

Regional special teaching groups
Individualized education is provided in the regional special teaching groups per subject or per functional domain. The students also have the opportunity to integrate with the teaching groups in their local school.
Student welfare services – support and wellbeing

The Student Welfare Department offers the services of the school welfare officer and the school psychologist for pre-primary and basic education as well as the general upper secondary institutions for young people. The department also coordinates and develops special needs assistant services for basic education.

The operations support and promote a working culture of wellbeing, care and positive interaction in schools. The central questions in the operation of the Student Welfare Department are related to the development, learning, interaction, and mental health of children and adolescents.

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Special Needs Assistant in charge
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Immigrant education – readiness for further education

The support services for the education of immigrants cooperate in the organisation of education for students with an immigrant background with the schools. The service is targeted at basic education, the transition phase between basic and secondary education, and secondary education.

The objective is to ensure the students’ opportunities to acquire the skills and knowledge corresponding to the national core curriculum for basic education and to be prepared for further education. Studying is supported by organising preparatory education prior to the basic education, courses in Finnish as a second language, as well as teaching of the students’ native language and religion in small groups.

Preparatory education is offered in the Kaakkuri, Kaukovainio, Koskela, Myllyoja, and Paulaharju elementary schools and at the Kastelli, Merikoski, Rajakylä, and Terva-Toppila secondary schools.

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Centre of Student Support Services, ERTU, guides and develops the education, learning, and welfare services in the schools and general upper secondary education institutes in the City of Oulu. The objective of ERTU is to secure the path to school through the transition phases from pre-primary to basic education and from there, to further education.

The operations are divided between regional and centralised special education, student welfare services, and immigrant education services.

The task of the centre is to help schools in creating preventive and remedial operational models to implement the general, intensified, and special support services.

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