

Directorate of Education Act

2015 No 91 10 July

Date of entry into force: 5 August 2015 with the exception of Article 1 and Articles 4 to 7: entry into force 1 July 2015; date of publication in the Law Gazette: 4 August 2015.

Any reference in this Act to “the Minister” or “the Ministry” not accompanied by express mention of or reference to a specific field of responsibility shall be understood as being a reference to the **Minister of Education, Science and Culture** or to the **Ministry of Education, Science and Culture** as responsible for the implementation of this Act.

■ Article 1 *Role*

The Directorate of Education is an administrative agency which operates in the field of education with a mandate to increase the quality of schooling and support progress in education in accordance with law and government policy, best available evidence, and international benchmarks.

The role of the Directorate of Education is to carry out tasks in the field of education in accordance with this Act and as directed by the Minister.

■ Article 2 *Organisation*

The Minister shall appoint a Director for a five-year term. The Director must possess an academic degree and expertise in the Directorate’s field of responsibility.

The Director shall be responsible for ensuring compliance by the Directorate with legislative and regulatory requirements and with the relevant terms of reference.

■ Article 3 *Advisory Committee*

The Director shall be assisted by an Advisory Committee composed of seven members appointed by the Minister for a four-year term. Two committee members, one of which shall serve as Chair, shall be appointed without nomination, one shall be appointed on the nomination of the Association of Local Authorities in Iceland, one on the nomination of the Association of Icelandic Upper Secondary Schools, one on the nomination of the Rectors’ Conference of Higher Education Institutions, one on the nomination of the Icelandic Teachers’ Union, and one on the nomination of the [National Parents’ Association] ‘Home and School’. Alternate members shall be appointed in the same manner. The Director participates in the meetings of the Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee shall meet once every year, and more frequently if the need arises. The Committee’s Chair shall call its meetings.

The Committee’s task is to provide consultancy to the Director regarding the Directorate’s long-term policies.

■ Article 4 *Expert panels*

For the Directorate’s main fields of activity, the Director shall set up expert panels composed of persons with specialist knowledge in each respective field. The expert panels shall provide consultancy and assistance to the Directorate. The Minister shall issue a Regulation on the establishment and operation of the expert panels.

■ Article 5 *Tasks*

The task of the Directorate of Education shall be to encourage improvement and development in schooling by:

- a. providing quality educational materials of a varied nature to pupils attending compulsory school, as well as to other pupils when mandated to do so;
- b. collecting, analysing and disseminating information on educational topics;
- c. monitoring school progress and evaluating it according to the criteria chosen;
- d. providing information and guidance regarding matters within the Directorate's field of responsibility to public authorities, those active in the profession, and the general public;
- e. taking part in the implementation of legal, regulatory and other administrative provisions;
- f. providing assistance and consultancy to the Minister with regard to legislative and regulatory work in the field of education and the drafting of National Curriculum Guides; and
- g. carrying out other tasks as mandated by legal or regulatory provisions or ministerial decisions.

■ Article 6 *Special powers*

The Directorate of Education may:

- a. delegate to other parties, by contract, specific tasks with which it is charged, provided that the activity in question does not involve the power to make decisions regarding any party's rights or obligations;
- b. order schools and those responsible for their operation to provide any information or document which the Directorate considers necessary for the execution of its tasks, in the format requested and within a specified deadline; any school or party receiving such order must comply with it at no cost to the Directorate; the Directorate of Education must in every instance provide information on the purpose for which the documents are being requested, on the manner in which they will be processed and stored and the manner in which conclusions will be made public; the Directorate of Education shall collaborate with Statistics Iceland on the collection of data as appropriate, and other public authorities and organisations must provide the Directorate with any data which they collect and which concern the field of education, at no cost to the Directorate;
- c. conduct tests and surveys among pupils and publish information on the results itemized by school, municipality, region or any other variable liable to shed lights on the results;
- d. adopt and publish rules on the distribution of educational materials;
- e. make educational materials which it produces and distributes to schools available also on the general market;
- f. provide special assistance to schools with few pupils, considering that the right of each compulsory school to receive educational materials for the compulsory education provided pursuant to Article 5, point a, is determined by the number of pupils.

■ Article 7 *Own income*

The Directorate of Education may generate own income through fees for specialised services related to the creation of reports and for services rendered to schools, those responsible for their operation, interest groups, researchers and other parties requesting information, as well as for the use of its information systems, services rendered in relation to such use, and for published material.

The Directorate of Education must publish information about the fees it charges in an accessible way.

■ Article 8 *Regulatory powers*

The Minister shall issue a Regulation containing more detailed provisions on the implementation of this Act.

■ **Article 9** *Entry into force*

□ This Act shall enter into force forthwith. However, Article 1 and Articles 4 to 7 shall only enter into force on 1 July 2015 ...

■ **Article 10** *Amendments to other Acts ...*

Transitional provisions

■ **I.** Once this Act enters into force, the Minister may appoint the Director of the Directorate of Education, who shall thereby be authorized to make preparations for the operation of the Directorate.

□ The appointments and jobs of those with an employment relation with the National Centre for Educational Materials, the Educational Testing Institute or, in certain cases, the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, which will pertain to the Directorate of Education as of the date of entry into force of this Act, will cease to exist on 30 September 2015. All such employees shall be offered new posts at the Directorate of Education. However, each employee may have to submit to certain changes being made to the job or level in question in accordance with a new organisational chart and job description. When hiring for these positions, the obligation to publish vacancy notices laid down in Article 7 of the Government Employees Act, No 70/1996, need not be complied with.

■ **II.** Complementing Transitional Provision I, the Directorate of Education shall on 1 October 2015 take over all assets, rights and obligations of the Educational Testing Institute and the National Centre for Educational Materials.

Disclaimer: This is an English translation. The original Icelandic text, as published in the Law Gazette (Stjórnartíðindi) is the authoritative text. Should there be discrepancy between this translation and the authoritative text, the latter prevails.