

STRENGTHS

The Evaluation and Assessment Framework

- Common Objectives for compulsory education provide a basis for student assessment and evaluation
- Central and municipal efforts to guide schools on evaluation and assessment activities
- Increased support for the use of evidence and research to inform evaluation and assessment policies
- A culture of trust in the professionalism of all actors, consultation and openness to flexible, local solutions

Student Assessment

- Strong potential for formative assessment practice and availability of national assessment resources and supports
- A good mix of teacher judgement and standard examinations in the final diploma for compulsory education
- National tests provide rapid feedback to educators on student performance against the Common Objectives
- National initiatives have stimulated teacher teamwork and teacher-parent co-operation

Teacher Appraisal

- Teachers are trusted professionals and are keen to receive professional feedback
- Teamwork provides opportunities for peer learning
- Evaluation advisors have the potential to foster professional feedback in schools
- Making self-appraisal tools available to teachers promotes a culture of professional self-inquiry

School evaluation

- The introduction of a quality reporting system involving municipalities and the *Folkeskole*
- The expectation that municipal quality reports will lead to positive action
- More information and tools available to schools for self-evaluation and improvement
- Achieving the first steps in building a culture of internal and external school evaluation

System evaluation

- Strengthened national structure to monitor and evaluate the *Folkeskole*
- Legal provision to monitor school providers (municipalities and private schools) and to intervene when necessary
- Inclusion of national outcome data for compulsory education in the monitoring system
- Recognition of the importance of looking at broader outcomes of compulsory education

CHALLENGES

The Evaluation and Assessment Framework

- The evaluation and assessment framework is incomplete and does not fully integrate private schools
- The implementation and assessment of the Common Objectives varies among schools and municipalities
- A need to radically improve evaluation and assessment competencies throughout the system
- A need to engage all stakeholders and achieve consensus on the evaluation and assessment framework

Student Assessment

- Many teachers struggle in translating the Common Objectives into curriculum and assessment plans
- Lack of engagement of students in their self-assessment and peer assessment
- Engaging teachers to effectively use the results of the national tests
- Final examinations in compulsory education are criticised as 'outdated'

Teacher appraisal

- No shared understanding of what counts as accomplished teaching
- Teacher appraisal is not systematic and is undermined by a lack of career opportunities for effective teachers
- Teachers have few opportunities for feedback and are not guaranteed pedagogical leadership
- Missing links between teacher appraisal, professional development and school development

School evaluation

- No shared understanding of what makes a good school
- A need to refine the external (and internal) evaluation of the *Folkeskole* quality and performance
- A lack of expertise in school self-evaluation and teacher appraisal
- A need to embed municipal feedback to schools and follow-up of schools for school improvement

System evaluation

- Under use of system-level data – in particular on outcomes
- Gaps in the system to monitor compulsory education in Denmark
- A need to establish the validity of the national tests for monitoring purposes
- Room to further the Quality and Supervision Agency's role in monitoring municipalities

POINTERS FOR FUTURE POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The Evaluation and Assessment Framework

- Develop a strategic plan to complete the evaluation and assessment framework
- Improve the integration of private schools in the evaluation and assessment framework
- Strengthen central support and clarify key purposes and objectives of evaluation and assessment
- Significantly invest in evaluation and assessment capacity development across compulsory education

Student assessment

- Collaborate with educators to develop performance standards for the Common Objectives
- Conduct research on effective classroom assessment practices and develop teacher assessment competencies
- Ensure students are actively engaged with and proficient in assessment
- Further validate and develop the national tests and maximise their pedagogical value
- Review the purpose, procedures and content of the final examinations in Forms 9 and 10

Teacher appraisal

- Develop teaching standards to guide teacher professional development and appraisal
- Create a career structure with key stages and introduce certification for career progression
- Introduce a mandatory probationary period for new teachers
- Strengthen developmental teacher appraisal and hold school principals accountable for this
- Reinforce linkages between teacher appraisal, professional development and school development

School evaluation

- Define formal criteria of school quality
- Radically improve the value of quality reports to school self-evaluation and improvement
- Promote the role of school leaders as pedagogical leaders and select, train and retrain them for that role
- Strengthen the follow up on school evaluation results
- Promote and support capacity development in the external and internal evaluation of schools

System evaluation

- Optimise the reporting and use of system-level data and consider ways to further complement these data
- Further validate and clarify the monitoring role of national tests
- Strengthen efforts to both monitor and promote municipal evaluation capacity

FURTHER READING

This summary of strengths, challenges and recommendations is drawn from [OECD Reviews of Evaluation and Assessment in Education: Denmark](#), published in May 2011.

The full Country Note and further information about the *OECD Review on Evaluation and Assessment Frameworks for Improving School Outcomes* are available on the project's website: www.oecd.org/edu/evaluationpolicy.