

Statement by the Nordic Teachers' Council

Nordic support for Danish teachers

The Nordic Teachers' Council (NLS), representing 18 educators' organisations and over 600,000 educators in Nordic countries, expresses its full support of the Danish educators' organisations in relation to their members' planned lockout.

The Nordic labour markets – and not least the Danish labour market – are built on a long tradition of labour-market stakeholders negotiate agreements without any interference from politicians. This system has proved its stability for more than 100 years and has won respect and appreciation all over the world.

The Danish government has based its proposal for a reform of the public school on a particular negotiation result in order to have the reform financed by teachers teaching more hours.

NLS deplores this violation of the Danish tradition and the Nordic model of free negotiations between labour-market stakeholders. High-quality education is built on competent, well-prepared and involved teachers and educators. The Nordic countries have a special tradition in education that values democracy, training and equity, as well as highly professional teachers.

The foundation of this tradition is that teachers and educators are able to make independent decisions based on their professional assessment. The Danish Government and Local Government Denmark's plans to force teachers into teaching more at the expense of their preparation time represent a significant provocation against the Nordic school tradition.

NLS supports the Danish educator organisations' struggle to protect the Nordic model of agreements made through collective bargaining and the Danish – and Nordic - school tradition.

Helsingfors, 7 March 2013
The Nordic Teachers' Council

(signed by)
Anders Rusk
General Secretary