

# Education in Tallinn

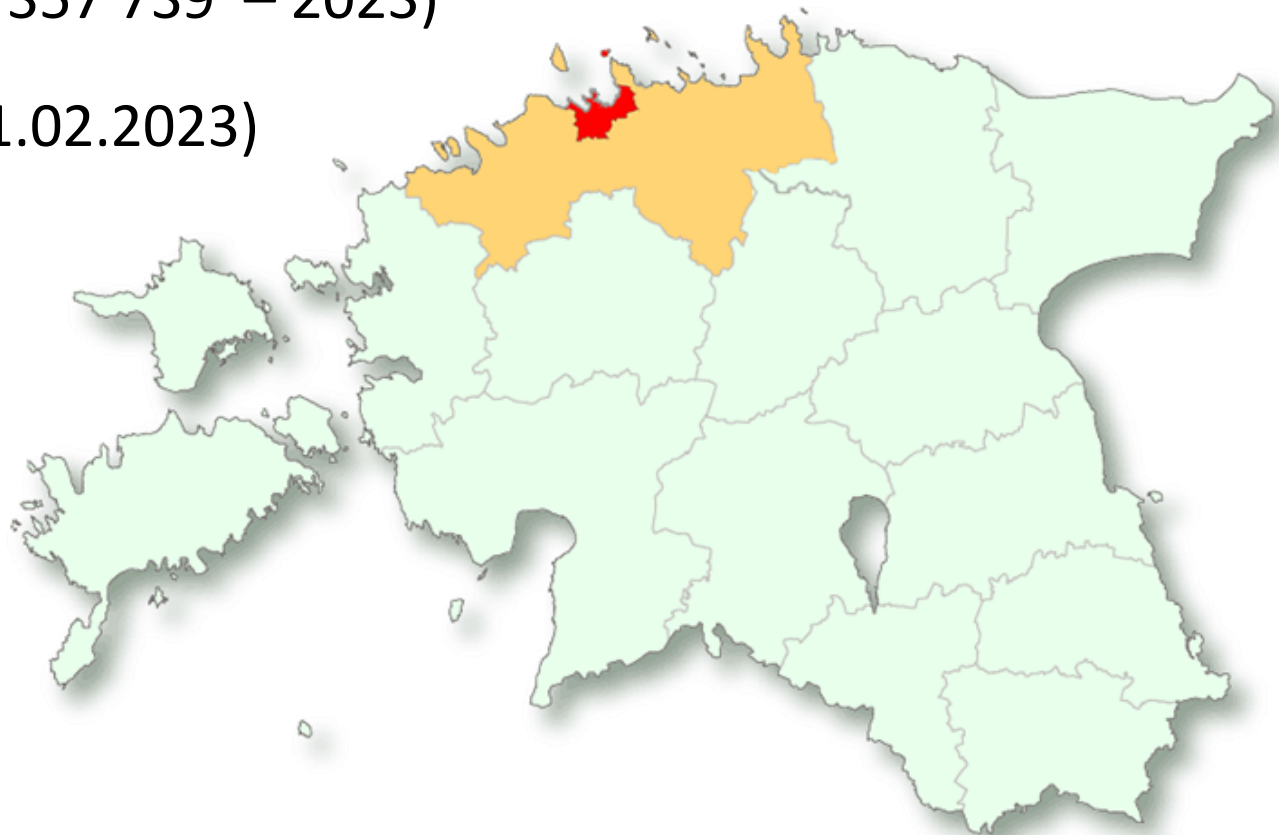
22.09.2023



**Tallinna**  
Haridusamet

# Tallinn

- Population in Estonia: 1.3 M ( 1 357 739 – 2023)
- Population in Tallinn 459 326 (1.02.2023)
- Area: 159,3 km<sup>2</sup>
- 8 city districts



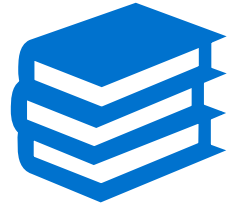
# Tallinn Education Department

## **Mission**

Thinking about the needs of the learner, we will develop the best, most modern and diverse learning environment

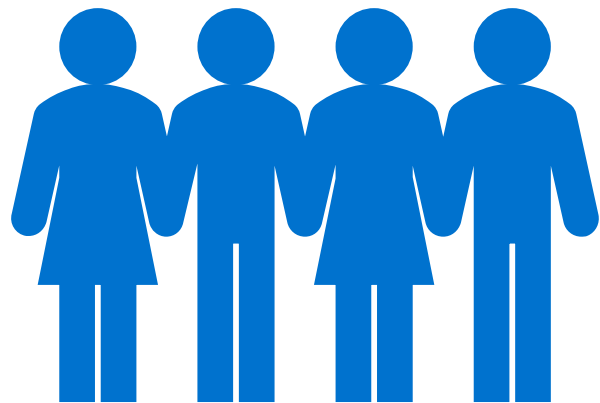
## **Vision**

To develop, in a professional manner, a quality environment for learning



## **Main task**

The Tallinn Education Department's area of activity is the managing of educational policy in Tallinn and administration of early childhood, general, vocational and extra-curricular education and youth work in the city's municipal educational institutions and other institutions administered by the Education Department.



# The Structure of Tallinn Education Department

- General
- Educational management
- Personnel
- Finance
- Youth Work
- Internal Control

# Autonomy: leadership and organizational development

## **The city of Tallinn has decentralized management**

Estonian schools are autonomous

Every school has responsibility:

- to develop own curriculum, based on the framework of the national curriculum
- to specify the possibilities of integration of subjects and the concrete learning outcomes at each class level

# Performance evaluation of leaders of educational institutions in Tallinn

The purpose of the performance evaluation is to increase the management quality of Tallinn's educational institutions and to support the implementation [of the Tallinn Development Strategy 2035](#) .

Evaluation period: 2 years

# Administrative area of Tallinn Education Department

125 pre-school institutions

58 general education schools

10 extra-curricular (hobby) schools

1 vocational school

Tallinn Education and Counselling Centre

Tallinn Teachers' House



**20 684**

participants in early  
childhood education  
2022/2023

**46 899**

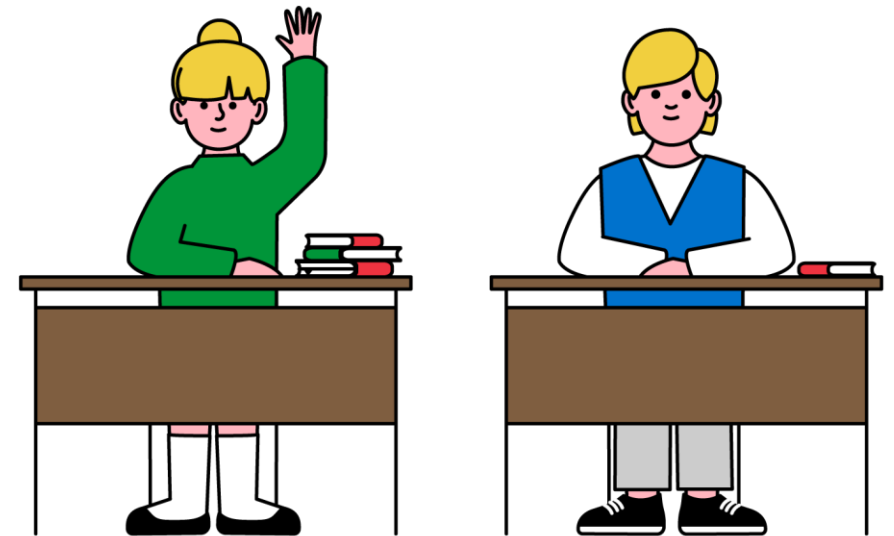
Pupils in general  
education in 2022/2023

# Basic education

Children are required to start school if they will turn 7 by 1th of October and to attend school until they acquire basic education diploma (grades 1-9) or turn 17.

## Pupils have access to:

- free transport to and from school
- warm food at school (1-3 times, lunch is for free)
- primary medical aid in school
- partly subsidised hobby education



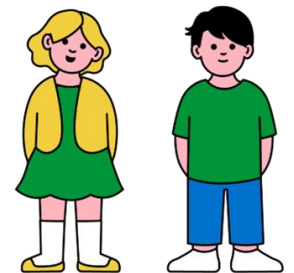


# Inclusive education in basic schools

- Every child has the right to receive basic education at a nearby school usually in mainstream classes.
- The principle of inclusive education has been established in Basic Schools and Upper Secondary Schools Act since 2010.
- ~ 46 000 pupils study in Tallinn municipal general education schools, incl ~1300 in special schools and ~500 in special classes in local schools.
- 22% of students in Tallinn need additional support in school (15% general (~4000 students), 4% enhanced (~1500 students), 3% special support (~1000 students).

# Pre-school children's institutions

- In Estonia kindergartens are not only childcare, but **part of the educational system (regulated by the Preschool Children's Institutions Act)**.
- Mostly municipally owned and financed from the budget of the local government.
- The goal of pre-school education: to support children's individuality, creativity and learning through play.
- The **national curriculum for pre-school institutions** follows the Scandinavian approach of combining different child-centered active learning methods ("Step by Step", the Montessori method, the Waldorf method of teaching, Reggio Emilia, language immersion, research, entrepreneurship, outdoor learning).



# Pre-school children's institutions 2

- Local municipalities must provide the opportunity to attend pre-school institutions to all children between 1,6-7-years who live in their area.
- Parents pay a participation fee. 88,45 EUR per month / 97,15 eur with swimming pool. Tallinn citizens pay 17,20 EUR less.
- 94% of 4-7-year-olds participate in pre-school institutions.
- Approximately 20 000 children attend Tallinn kindergartens, over 1000 of them are children with SEN.
- The kindergartens in Tallinn are different (from 2 groups to 14 groups).
- There are at least one support specialist (speech therapist or special pedagogue) in over half of Tallinn kindergartens.
- Many kindergartens do not have any specialist, then children can get help from Tallinn Education and Counselling Centre.

# Priorities for the academic year 2023/2024

Based on the Tallinn 2035 development strategy, a priority of the Tallinn Education Department is to ensure that there are happy and successful learners in Tallinn.

**GOALS**

**1**



Every learner develops the best in themselves.

**2**



Learners have an inspiring and supporting learning environment.

**3**



Young people participate actively in social life.

# Priorities for the academic year 2023/2024

- **The transition to Estonian-language education**

The transition to Estonian-language education is set to begin in kindergartens and 1st and 4th grades in 2024, with the aim of completing the process by 2030.

The transition coming into effect from the 2024/25 academic year primarily concerns Tallinn's Russian-language and Estonian-Russian bilingual schools and kindergartens, particularly due to a significant increase in the shortage of teachers. The city provides following support: language and methodology training, language mobility projects, guidance for institutions and leaders, informational sessions, and more.

# Priorities for the academic year 2023/2024

- Supporting education professionals and leaders
- Tallinn 2035 development plan activities
- Theme year of language and culture



**Keele ja kultuuri  
teema-aasta  
2023-2024**



Aitäh!  
Thank you!

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