

Subject choices of students 2018

Subject choices of comprehensive school pupils

Majority of comprehensive school pupils study English

According to Statistics Finland, English was the most commonly studied foreign language in comprehensive schools in the autumn term 2018. Seventy-four per cent of students in grades 1 to 6 studied English. The share of students studying English increased by three percentage points from the previous year in grades 1 to 6. Almost all students in grades 7 to 9 studied English. Nineteen per cent of students in grades 1 to 6 and 92 per cent of students in grades 7 to 9 studied Swedish as a foreign language.

Language choices of comprehensive school pupils in 2018

		Compulsory language A1	Optional language A2	Compulsory language B1	Elective language B2	Total	Share of pupils in grades 1-6 %	Share of pupils in grades 7-9 %
Grades	Studied language							
Grades 1-6	English	256 783	16 898	14	.	273 695	74.0	.
	Swedish	3 323	12 306	53 284	.	68 913	18.6	.
	Finnish	19 015	1 151	11	.	20 177	5.5	.
	French	3 402	4 191	17	.	7 610	2.1	.
	German	3 282	11 313	16	.	14 611	3.9	.
	Russian	1 117	1 102	0	.	2 219	0.6	.
	Spanish	832	5 932	0	.	6 764	1.8	.
	Italian	0	0	0	.	0	0.0	.
	Sami	9	236	0	.	245	0.1	.
	Other	442	149	13	.	604	0.2	.
Grades 7-9	English	166 060	12 785	206	80	179 131	.	99.5
	Swedish	1 651	11 432	153 400	2	166 485	.	92.5
	Finnish	9 095	1 300	211	2	10 608	.	5.9
	French	1 614	3 490	193	3 653	8 950	.	5.0
	German	1 680	7 786	242	8 714	18 422	.	10.2
	Russian	512	1 427	0	1 726	3 665	.	2.0
	Spanish	211	1 270	0	3 793	5 274	.	2.9
	Italian	0	0	0	75	75	.	0.0
	Sami	3	49	0	3	55	.	0.0
	Latin	0	0	0	429	429	.	0.2
	Other	167	20	23	42	252	.	0.1

Nearly all pupils attending grades 7 to 9 studied both English and Swedish or Finnish either as mother tongue, or as a compulsory, optional or elective foreign language. German was studied by 10 per cent and French by 5 per cent of the pupils attending grades 7 to 9, mainly as an optional or elective foreign language.

A total of 370,020 pupils attended grades 1 to 6. 189,545 of the pupils were boys and 180,475 were girls. A total of 180,058 pupils attended grades 7 to 9. 92,100 of the pupils were boys and 87,958 were girls.

Contents

Tables

Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. Language choices of comprehensive school pupils in 2018, boys.....	4
Appendix table 2. Language choices of comprehensive school pupils in 2018, girls.....	4

Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. Language choices of comprehensive school pupils in 2018, boys

		Compulsory language A1	Optional language A2	Compulsory language B1	Elective language B2	Boys total	Share of boys in grades 1-6 %	Share of boys in grades 7-9 %
Grades	Studied language							
Grades 1-6	English	131 835	8 207	9	.	140 051	73.9	.
	Swedish	1 736	5 617	27 636	.	34 989	18.5	.
	Finnish	9 650	544	4	.	10 198	5.4	.
	French	1 390	1 589	8	.	2 987	1.6	.
	German	1 577	5 523	7	.	7 107	3.7	.
	Russian	486	448	0	.	934	0.5	.
	Spanish	341	2 680	0	.	3 021	1.6	.
	Italian	0	0	0	.	0	0.0	.
	Sami	6	125	0	.	131	0.1	.
	Other	207	78	5	.	290	0.2	.
Grades 7-9	English	85 262	6 139	86	40	91 527	.	99.4
	Swedish	750	4 905	79 300	2	84 957	.	92.2
	Finnish	4 650	618	97	1	5 366	.	5.8
	French	604	1 195	77	1 012	2 888	.	3.1
	German	761	3 528	106	3 457	7 852	.	8.5
	Russian	235	528	0	746	1 509	.	1.6
	Spanish	92	525	0	1 222	1 839	.	2.0
	Italian	0	0	0	28	28	.	0.0
	Sami	2	14	0	1	17	.	0.0
	Latin	0	0	0	147	147	.	0.2
	Other	77	10	13	21	121	.	0.1

Appendix table 2. Language choices of comprehensive school pupils in 2018, girls

		Compulsory language A1	Optional language A2	Compulsory language B1	Elective language B2	Girls total	Share of girls in grades 1-6 %	Share of girls in grades 7-9 %
Grades	Studied language							
Grades 1-6	English	124 948	8 691	5	.	133 644	74.1	.
	Swedish	1 587	6 689	25 648	.	33 924	18.8	.
	Finnish	9 365	607	7	.	9 979	5.5	.
	French	2 012	2 602	9	.	4 623	2.6	.
	German	1 705	5 790	9	.	7 504	4.2	.
	Russian	631	654	0	.	1 285	0.7	.
	Spanish	491	3 252	0	.	3 743	2.1	.
	Italian	0	0	0	.	0	0.0	.
	Sami	3	111	0	.	114	0.1	.
	Other	235	71	8	.	314	0.2	.

		Compulsory language A1	Optional language A2	Compulsory language B1	Elective language B2	Girls total	Share of girls in grades 1-6 %	Share of girls in grades 7-9 %
Grades 7-9	English	80 798	6 646	120	40	87 604	.	99.6
	Swedish	901	6 527	74 100	0	81 528	.	92.7
	Finnish	4 445	682	114	1	5 242	.	6.0
	French	1 010	2 295	116	2 641	6 062	.	6.9
	German	919	4 258	136	5 257	10 570	.	12.0
	Russian	277	899	0	980	2 156	.	2.5
	Spanish	119	745	0	2 571	3 435	.	3.9
	Italian	0	0	0	47	47	.	0.1
	Sami	1	35	0	2	38	.	0.0
	Latin	0	0	0	282	282	.	0.3
	Other	90	10	10	21	131	.	0.1

Inquiries

Vesa Hämäläinen 029 551 2594
Director in charge:
Jari Tarkoma

koulutustilastot@stat.fi
www.stat.fi
Source: Education. Statistics Finland