



Regulations regarding common school rules for students at upper secondary schools within Trøndelag County Authority

Pursuant to:

Section 10-7 of the Norwegian Education Act

Adopted by Trøndelag County Council on 11 June 2024 (case no. 74/24). Effective from 1 August 2024.

SECTION 1 OBJECTIVE

The aim of the school rules is to provide students with information about how they can participate and be involved in their day-to-day life at school. They shall be informed of their rights and obligations. School rules are intended to contribute to a good and safe learning environment, good collaboration, well-being, respect, inclusion and shared responsibility. The rules are meant to promote good order, conduct and work habits, which can facilitate effective learning.

The rules shall provide information about:

- The organisation of school governance
- Student rights and obligations (including order and conduct)
- Measures to be implemented when students violate school rules, and how such cases should be handled

SECTION 2 SCOPE

School rules apply to all students at upper secondary schools within Trøndelag County Authority. These rules apply to students while at school during school hours. In addition, the rules apply to different forms of instruction and activities that fall under the responsibility and direction of the school outside school property, such as educational trips, excursions and vocational training. The rules also apply to students on their way to and from school.

Violations occurring outside school hours and school property, but that are based on or affect a school situation are also covered by the school rules.

In addition to the common school rules, individual upper secondary schools may determine their own local rules in accordance with Section 8.

Separate rules and regulations apply to boarding schools, which form part of the housing contract.



SECTION 3 ORGANISATION OF SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

Student participation

The school shall facilitate opportunities for individual students to freely express their opinions, and it shall encourage students to participate in school governance. The school shall assist students in their school governance activities. The school shall ensure that students can participate in planning, implementation and assessment processes at the school in areas such as the school environment, quality development of instruction, and the establishment of school rules.

Student council

Every school should, in general, have a student council with members elected by the student body. Students and school staff members will determine how many students can be elected to the student council. Students may choose to organise themselves differently than through a student council. Should students wish to have another form of student government than the student council, a decision must be made on this matter at the beginning of each school year. Other forms of student government may include general meetings, digital debates, voting, etc. The tasks of a student council involve participation in the planning, implementation and assessment of school activities in areas such as the school environment, quality development of instruction, and the establishment of school rules.

School board

The County Authority shall determine the types of user bodies that schools should have. Students shall be represented in these user bodies. They must not participate in the review of cases covered by the legal duty of confidentiality.

Schools in Trøndelag County Authority shall have a school board that functions as a user body.

The school board shall be comprised of a head teacher, two students, two representatives from the local community, one representative from the local political system, one representative from the County Council and one parent representative.

Two or more upper secondary schools may establish a joint school board. Rules regarding composition will also apply to a joint school board. However, certain adjustments can be made to prevent the school board from becoming too large. The following requirements must be met. Head teachers from each school must be included, in addition to two student representatives and one parent representative from each school, and at least one staff representative from each school. The County Council makes decisions on applications for the establishment of a joint school board.

The school board shall hold at least two meetings each year. A meeting schedule shall be adopted for six months at a time. The school board has the right to voice its opinions on all matters that apply to the school, including the planning, implementation and assessment of



the school's activities, in areas such as the school environment, quality development of instruction, and the establishment of school rules.

There are separate rules that apply to school boards. (Link to the rules [here](#).)

SECTION 4 STUDENT RIGHTS

Schools shall give students an education that complies with the Norwegian Education Act, policy documents and decisions that apply to the County Authority.

The best interests of the student shall be a primary concern in all actions and decisions involving the student.

All students are entitled to a good and safe school environment that promotes good health, inclusion, well-being and learning. The school environment encompasses both the physical and psychosocial environment. There must be zero tolerance for offensive behaviour, bullying, harassment and discrimination. The school must work actively and systematically to promote a good school environment, in which every student can work undisturbed and experience safety, security and social inclusion.

SECTION 5 STUDENT OBLIGATIONS

Students shall contribute to a good, safe and inclusive school environment that ensures a good learning and working environment for everyone in the school community. This means that students should refrain from wearing clothing or other items that appear to exclude others, such as "Russe" clothing that may be offensive and exclusionary. Students shall actively participate in their instruction and follow school rules. Students shall comply with prevailing legal requirements, rules, regulations and instructions.

1) ORDER

Students shall maintain good order. This entails the following:

- a. Attending school on time and being present during all instruction. If a student, without valid reason, is absent for more than 15 minutes over the course of a lesson, this shall be recorded as absence for a full hour.
- b. Notifying the contact teacher/subject teacher if they are unable to attend class.
- c. Being present at school for instruction with the exception of necessary absence due to illness or special circumstances. Holiday trips are not considered a necessary absence.
- d. Bringing the necessary learning materials and equipment to school.
- e. Performing agreed activities and meeting deadlines.



- f. Helping to keep the school grounds clean and tidy.
- g. Taking responsibility for personal items.
- h. Adhering to the County Authority's rules for the use of ICT.

2) CONDUCT

Students shall demonstrate good conduct. This entails the following:

- a. Behaving in an honest and courteous manner.
- b. Treating fellow students, teachers and other staff members with respect.
- c. Being attentive during lessons and actively participating in instruction.
- d. Respecting school property and property belonging to others.
- e. Using equipment in accordance with instruction and guidelines.
- f. Complying with prevailing legal requirements, rules, regulations and instructions.

Students must *not*:

- g. Disrupt instruction.
- h. Bully or harass others.
- i. Smoke, use snus, consume or be under the influence of narcotic substances on school grounds or other educational arenas during school hours. E-cigarettes are not permitted. The ban on the use of tobacco and/or e-cigarettes applies during school hours, regardless of location.
- j. Carry weapons or objects that could be used to inflict harm, frighten or threaten others. Separate rules apply to schools where instruction entails the use of weapons or other dangerous instruments that may cause harm (cf. Section 8).
- k. Cheat or attempt to cheat on tests or assignments.
- l. Use the school's online resources to download, read, view or spread pornographic, hateful or other illegal material.
- m. Use mobile phones, computers or other electronic devices in a manner that disrupts instruction or is offensive to others. Mobile phones should be put away before lessons begin. Teachers may in certain cases permit students to use their mobile phones during class. The school may also, in certain cases, limit students' access to mobile phones during breaks out of consideration for the learning and school environment.
- n. Share videos or photos of staff members or fellow students without first having received valid consent from the person(s) who has/have been filmed or photographed.
- o. Wear clothing that partially or completely covers the face, unless this is necessary for pedagogical, health, climate or safety reasons. This also applies during instruction, assessment situations and on trips and events organised by the school.

Schools will normally report criminal offences to the police.



SECTION 6 CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATING SCHOOL RULES (ORDER AND CONDUCT)

Assessments of order and conduct are based on these school rules. Marks for order and conduct must be based on an overall assessment of the student's compliance with the school rules. Teachers will normally not consider single incidents when determining marks for order and conduct. Exceptions may be made for particularly censurable or serious single incidents, such as aggravated assault.

Consequences of the violation of school rules may include the following:

1) Confiscation of objects that disrupt the lesson or that may appear threatening or destructive in the school environment.

- Confiscation entails that the school will store the items in question in a responsible manner for one school day.

2) Expulsion

- A subject teacher may expel a student from instruction for up to two hours.
- The head teacher may expel a student from school for up to five days.
- The County Authority may decide to expel a pupil for the remainder of the school year.

When expelling a student for more than two hours, an individual decision is required, and the student will have the right to appeal the decision. Before the individual decision is made, the student and their parents/guardians, if the student is a minor, will be notified and given the opportunity to respond within a reasonable time limit. The school will first determine whether it is possible to take other, more appropriate measures. Rules regarding case processing, individual decisions, the right of notification, the right to defend oneself, and the right to appeal a decision are laid out in the Norwegian Public Administration Act, the Norwegian Education Act and the Regulations pursuant to the Education Act.

3) Expulsion from a school trip

- The head teacher may make an individual decision to expel and send a student home from a school trip.

4) Transferring schools

- If the behaviour of a student negatively impacts the safety or learning of one or more fellow students, the County Council may decide that the student should be transferred to a different school. The decision to transfer a student to another school should not be made if less invasive measures could remedy the situation.

5) Liability for damages

- Students or their parents/guardians can expect to be held liable for damages such as vandalism or other damage to school property or school grounds in accordance with



the Norwegian Damages Act. An agreement can be made with the school to give the student the opportunity to personally repair the damages.

The response to a violation must be proportional to the severity of the violation.

SECTION 7 PROCEDURE IN CASE OF UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHETHER A STUDENT HAS DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL

The school shall do its utmost to enable students to complete their education.

Should there be uncertainty as to whether a student has dropped out of school, e.g. due to absence, the school shall without undue delay send a written prior notice to the student, and to their parents/guardians if the student is under 18, concerning the decision on the forfeiture of the student's place at school.

If the student (and their parents/guardians if the student is under 18) has not responded to the notice within the two-week deadline, the school will conclude that the student has dropped out, and a final report in the form of an individual decision will be written with a three-week deadline for appeal. If no appeal is filed by the deadline, the student's place at school will be forfeited in accordance with the individual decision.

The student will be unenrolled from the school and the Follow-Up Service will immediately receive information about the matter.

SECTION 8 SEPARATE RULES FOR INDIVIDUAL UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOLS

School may establish their own local rules within the framework of the common rules.

This may, for instance, include rules about the school's classrooms, special rooms and equipment, as well as rules for handling weapons and other objects that may cause harm if used improperly.