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Barn- och utbildningsförvaltningen
Salems kommun



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kommun

Multilingualism and home language

Do you speak a language other than Swedish at home with your child or children?

In Salem's municipality parents can enroll their children in home language support in preschool or home language instruction in primary school. The aim of home language is to help create active multilingualism. Children and students get the chance to learn more about their own culture and be allowed the opportunity to develop into multilingual individuals with a dual cultural identity and cultural competency.

Home language or mother tongue is its own school subject with its own courseplan.

In order to be eligible to study home language, the following criteria need to be met:

- one or both parents or guardians must have a language other than Swedish as their first language.
- This language must be used daily in family communication.
- The student must have basic knowledge and fluency in this language. It cannot be a foreign language for the child or student.
- There must be at least 5 students in the municipality who request studies in this language and there needs to be an appropriate teacher available.

If you speak one of the national minority languages, which are Sami, Finnish, Tornedals Finnish, Yiddish, and Romani Chib, you are able to receive home language instruction even if the language is not a daily language in your home. The same applies to children who are adopted and have a first language other than Swedish.

About the instruction

The teachers who teach home language often come from the same country and culture as the children or students and also have a good knowledge of Swedish.

Lessons take place at schools where students can be grouped appropriately. It is ideal to form groups which are as homogenous as possible, so that students are approximately at the same language level and age group. This allows for the highest quality of lessons. But, this can mean that your child's lessons might not take place at your child's school.

In Salem's municipality, right now, we have the following languages:

Albanian, Arabic, Assyrian/Syrian, Bengali, Bosnian, Serbian, Croatian, English, Finnish, French, Greek, Kurdish, Mandarin, Dutch, Flemish, Farsi, Polish, Russian, Somalian, Spanish, Thai, Tigrinya, Chechen, German, and Hungarian.

Application Process

Parents apply for home language support or instruction for their children. The lessons are voluntary and free of charge. Complete the form called *Application for home language instruction / support* and submit it to your nearest preschool head or school principal. They will then forward the application to Anna Levén, head of the Center for Multilingualism.

New Arrivals in the municipality

In Salem's municipality there are two school classes at Skogsängsskolan for students who have just moved to Sweden and do not speak Swedish. There is one international or preparatory class for the younger students and one for the older students.

In these classes, the students study several subjects, but the focus is on the Swedish language. How long the students attend the preparatory class varies since prior knowledge and language skills are individual. Most often, students attend this class for 2 – 3 school terms. After that time, they are channeled out into regular subject classes.

Extra tutoring

If a student has recently moved to Sweden and does not have sufficient Swedish language fluency in order to follow along in the regular subject instruction, he or she may work with the home language teacher in order to have the subject instruction explained in the home language. This is called *studiehandledning* in Swedish. It is the school that decides who receives this kind of support.

For more information, contact:

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