



The Children and educational Administration

Compulsory school attendance while staying abroad

At occasions when you would like to travel abroad with your child who attends compulsory school or adapted compulsory school there are different ways to manage compulsory school attendance. What becomes relevant depends on how long you will be away and what kind of education you plan for the child during this time. In this document you can read about how compulsory school attendance works and the possibilities available while abroad

Compulsory school attendance

All children that are registered in Sweden have compulsory school attendance from the autumn term the year they turn six years old. As your child has compulsory school attendance you are required, among other things, to make sure the child attends school.

Having the right to education

All children with compulsory school attendance also have the right to education. To have the right to education signifies that your child is entitled to free education at preschool class, compulsory school or adapted compulsory school at a Swedish school. The right to education is a protected right according to the Constitution Act, the Education Act and the Convention on the Rights of Children. The Children and educational Administration is responsible for making sure that children with compulsory school attendance who lives in Falkenberg receives the education that they are entitled to.

Obligation to attend

All children that goes to school have an obligation to attend. That means that your child should go to school and participate in the teachings, as long as there are no valid reasons for absence. Examples of valid reasons for absence from school is if your child is ill or has received an authorised absence.

Rules for time off is only valid for shorter periods

It is not a right for children with compulsory school attendance to get time off from school. The general rule is that children should be at school. Read more about time off at [Skolverkets webbplats](https://www.skolverket.se/om-skolverket/om-skolverket-och-omskolning/om-skolverket-och-omskolning). (web site for the Swedish National Agency for Education)

The headmaster of a school, or appointed staff, may grant a shorter leave for your child, ten days at the most. Longer time off can be granted by the headmaster if they determine that there are exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances means that there has to be a very strong reason for the child to get time off from school. A holiday with the familj is usually not a special circumstance that would allow for time off.

The headmaster cannot grant for time off by the month. Therefore these rules are nor applicable for longer stays abroad.

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To apply for time off

Apply for time off at your child's Skola24, which is our digital tool for handling presence and absence.

Compulsory school attendance and longer stay abroad

As a basic rule your child has compulsory school attendance in Sweden until further notice. Decisions can be made if there is a change in the national registration or The Children and educational Administration estimates a change concerning the compulsory school attendance should be done. If the child will be abroad longer than a year the parent or legal guardian is obliged to report this to the Swedish Tax Agency. You can find the form at [Skatteverkets webbplats](#).

If your address is not stated and you remain registered in the municipality of Falkenberg or if it is not possible to reach you at the given contact information The Children and educational Administration will inform the Tax Agency and the Social Insurance Agency. We will as well continue to try to get a hold of you.

Apply for handling compulsory school attendance before stay abroad

When you are planning for taking your child abroad for a period that extends the normal leave you need to apply for handling of the compulsory school attendance. As you send in the form *Application for handling compulsory school attendance while staying abroad*, we will open up a case regarding your stay abroad. Ask for the form at your child's school or go to kommun.falkenberg.se, fill in the application and give it to a staff member at the school. Remember to turn in the form at least three month before your stay abroad.

There are different ways of managing compulsory school attendance, depending on the conditions in your case. If the child will be abroad for a period shorter than six month the compulsory school attendance will probably continue to apply. If the stay is longer than six month the compulsory school attendance may in certain cases cease, if you have submitted requested informationen and if we take a decision like this after an assessment. The assessment is always done according to circumstances in the particular case. If the pupil has dual citizenship, that is, being also a citizen of another country than Sweden, certain rules apply for the stay abroad. You may read more about the options below.

Schooling abroad during a period shorter than six month

If your child will attend school abroad for a period shorter than six month normally the compulsory school attendance will continue to apply. After the application and the assessment we can decide if the child may fulfil the compulsory school attendance in another way. That implies that there will be an educational contact between the home school in Falkenberg and the school abroad. An ongoing follow-up of the proficiency progress and attendance will be done and in most cases a handover before the transfer. The demands for allowing your child

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to fulfil the compulsory school attendance in other ways than at a school in Sweden are high. You can read more about the demands in the document *Information about compulsory school attendance abroad*.

The compulsory school attendance can also be fulfilled in other ways during a period longer than six month if there are requests for this and the criteria are met.

Schooling abroad during a period longer than six month

In the municipality of Falkenbergs your child usually has compulsory school attendance if they are abroad for a period shorter than six month during a school year. If the child attends school abroad during a period longer than six month we may after a demand and an assessment decide to cease the compulsory school attendance. The parent or legal guardian has to display a certificate or something similar that shows that your child attends school. It is very important that you send in the application at least three month before your stay abroad, to give us time to assess if your child still has compulsory school attendance or not. As soon as we have taken a decision regarding compulsory school attendance we will notify you. Until further notice your child has compulsory school attendance. If you would like to keep the compulsory school attendance, in certain cases we can also in this situation decide on different compulsory school attendance,

Schooling in country where your child has citizenship

If your child has several citizenship, that is, being also a citizen of another country than Sweden, other rules apply for the stay abroad. As a parent or legal guardian you have the right to choose in which country your child should receive their education. The child can be a citizen of Sweden and at the same time attend school in the other country where they have citizenship. We need, for all stays abroad, a certificate from the receiving school. Use the form for longer stays abroad.

If the child continues to have compulsory school attendance in Sweden

If your child continues to have compulsory school attendance in Sweden, as the parent or legal guardian you have to make sure they go to school in Sweden. In certain cases, instead of ending the compulsory school attendance for your child it can be fulfilled in other ways. If so you have to apply for it. However, the possibilities of having this demand granted is limited. If the child continues to have compulsory school attendance and is not able to fulfil the compulsory school attendance in other ways, the child should go to school and attend the classes.

If the child does not continue to have compulsory school attendance in Sweden

If we estimate that your child does not have compulsory school attendance in Sweden any longer there are certain things to consider. The main reason why we would decide that there is no longer compulsory school attendance in Sweden is that your child will stay abroad for more than six month, but it can also be a matter of attending school in another country where

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the child has citizenship. In such a situation The Children and educational Administration is not obliged to pay for your child's education. When your child no longer has compulsory school attendance, their current place at a school in the municipality of Falkenberg will be terminated.

If your child returns to Sweden, the compulsory school attendance will return as before. Although your child might not be able to return to the same school as before the visit abroad. We can neither guarantee that the child can attend a class with pupils at the same ages them. This is because your child may not have acquired the same knowledge that pupils of the same age have acquired during the time you have been abroad. For this reason staff at school will assess your child's knowledge to determine which class your child should start after your stay abroad. Your child is entitled to support at school in the same way as other pupils at the school.

Management of your compulsory school attendance case

When you have submitted your application for handling compulsory school attendance while staying abroad, The Children and educational Administration will estimate if your child will continue to have compulsory school attendance in Sweden or not. Our assessment is above all based on the extent of time the child is supposed to be abroad, but also depending on the existing plan for the child's schooling.

It's important that you turn in all current attachments with your application so we can evaluate your case. Submit your application at least three month before your stay abroad. We will get in touch with you if you need to complete any part. We will also contact you when the decision about compulsory school attendance has been taken.

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