



# SKOLE OG FORÆLDRE



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OG  
FORÆLDRE

## Danish School Boards

The Danish model

- The role and rights of parents on school boards and in schools

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## Introduction



- › **Mette With Hagensen**
  - › Former President of the NGO, Skole og Forældre (2012-2018)
  - › Board member (2007-2018), trainer (2008 – present)
  - › Member of the school board for 12 years (2006-2008)
  - › Ms BA – presently professor in economics and marketing
- › Mother of 3, they all attended public school

**Contact**

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[www.skole-forældre.dk](http://www.skole-forældre.dk)

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# Skole og Forældre

## School and Parents

## Skole og Forældre

- › NGO established 6. June 1935,
- › 90% of the Folkeskoler are members
- › **Advocating** the interests of school boards and parents with children in primary schools in Denmark
- › **Represent** parents on 40+ national governance committees creating school policy
- › Supporting the school boards through **counseling, training and information** - partially funded by the government
- › Supporting parents e.g. through a **hot-line** telephone service - partially funded by the government
- › The **voice of parents** in the public debate about the Danish school system and other parenting issues

[www.skole-forældre.dk](http://www.skole-forældre.dk)

## Skole og Forældre – the voice of parents



SKOLEBESTYRELSE

**Mette With:**  
Skolelederne  
bestemmer for meget i  
skolebestyrelserne

FOR ABONNENTER



**Mette With Hagensen** @MetL... 6h  
Stop nu det præmiepolitik - lav  
10.Mi der styrker eleverne fagligt,  
personligt og socialt, så de er  
klar til ALLE  
ungdomsuddannelser, 10.klasse  
skal ikke udelukkende være  
indgang til #EUD Det er en  
orment #10.klasse #folkeskolen  
#eud #skolepol #kompolitk

**Regeringen** @regeringDK  
Lige nu: Regeringen indgår bred  
aftale, der skal sikre flere  
faglærte. Her er  
hovedelementerne i aftalen.  
#dkpol #uddpol #eud



KLAGESAGER TAGER LANG TID

[www.skole-forældre.dk](http://www.skole-forældre.dk)

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## Skole og Forældre – sharing best practice





**Skolebestyrelsens håndbog**  
Skolebestyrelsens håndbog. Få indflydelse på skolens hverdag og udvikling. Håndbogen giver alle skolebestyrelsesmedlemmerne en grundlæggende viden og fælles referenceramme for arbejdet i deres...



**Hæfte 4: Skolebestyrelsens arbejde - principper til styring af skolen**  
Til fri download og køb: Hæfte 4: Skolebestyrelsens arbejde - principper til styring af skolen. En skolebestyrelse, der formulerer principper, er en bestyrelse med indflydelse. Principperne kan...



**Hæfte 3: Samarbejdet mellem skole og hjem**  
Til fri download og køb: Hæfte 3: Skolebestyrelsens arbejde - samarbejde mellem skole og hjem. Samarbejdet mellem skole og hjem er afgørende for vores børns læring, dannelse og trivsel. Det siger...



**Hæfte 2: Elevernes læringsudbytte**  
Til fri download og køb: Hæfte 2: Skolebestyrelsens arbejde - elevernes læringsudbytte. Med folkeskoleloven skifter fokus fra undervisning til læring, så hver enkelt elevs udbytte af...









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## The Danish Folkeskole

### The history – in short



## The history

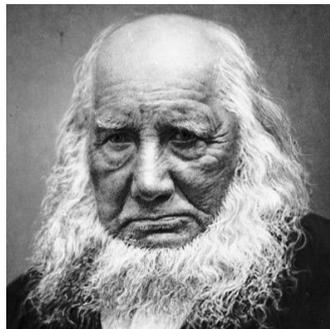
- › Middle ages – monestary schools
- › 1536 Reformation – schools are transfered from the church to the Crown
  - › Teaching students to read, write and speak Latin and Greek
- › 1809 School was transformed into a humanistic Civil Servant's School
  - › Teaching Greek and Latin
  - › Introducing natural science and modern languages (German and French)

[www.skole-forældre.dk](http://www.skole-forældre.dk)



## Grundtvig - then and now

- › N. F. S. Grundtvig, exercised a powerful influence on the development of Danish schools.
- › Grundtvig wanted schools to **only teach reading, writing and arithmetics**
- › **Narrative education** is essential
- › Every voice counts, also the voice of students



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## Modern history

- › 1814 – compulsory school attendance for 7 years
  - › Reading, writing, arithmetic, science, religion, history
- › 1855 – compulsory education
  - › Parents free choice of education for their child
    - › Home schooling, free schools, public schools
- › 1903 – unified schools
  - › Girls can attend public secondary schools
- › 2013 – the latest reform -



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## Parent influence in schools

- › Before 1814 – employ and house the teacher
- › 1904 – municipal school boards – appoint headmaster and teachers
- › 1934 - parents' council at local school – supervision of school
- › 1990 – school boards manatory at all schools, civic duty



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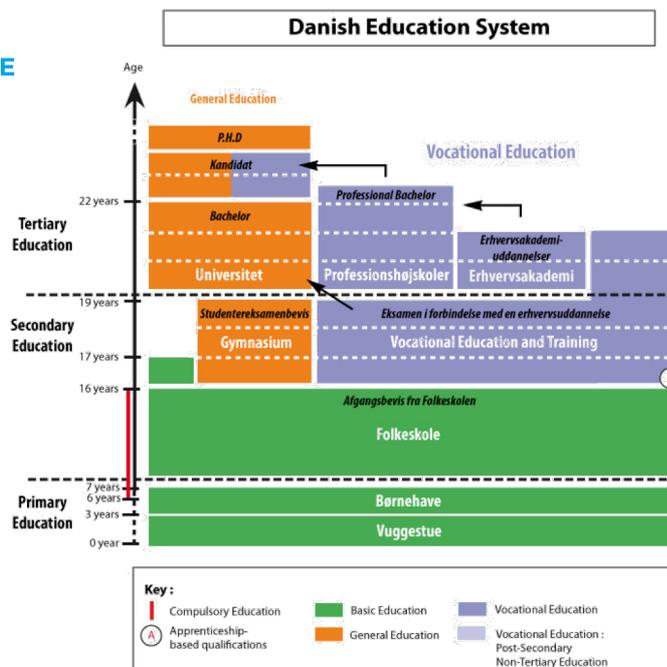


[Ning de Coninck-Smith](#)

## Reform 2013

- 1) The public school must challenge all students to reach their full potential.
  - 2) The public school must lower the significance of social background on academic results.
  - 3) Trust in the school and student well-being must be enhanced through respect for professional knowledge and practice in the public school.
- A longer and varied school day with more and improved teaching and learning.
  - An enhanced professional development of teachers, pedagogical staff and school principals.
  - Few and clear objectives and simplification of rules and regulations.

[www.skole-forældre.dk](http://www.skole-forældre.dk)

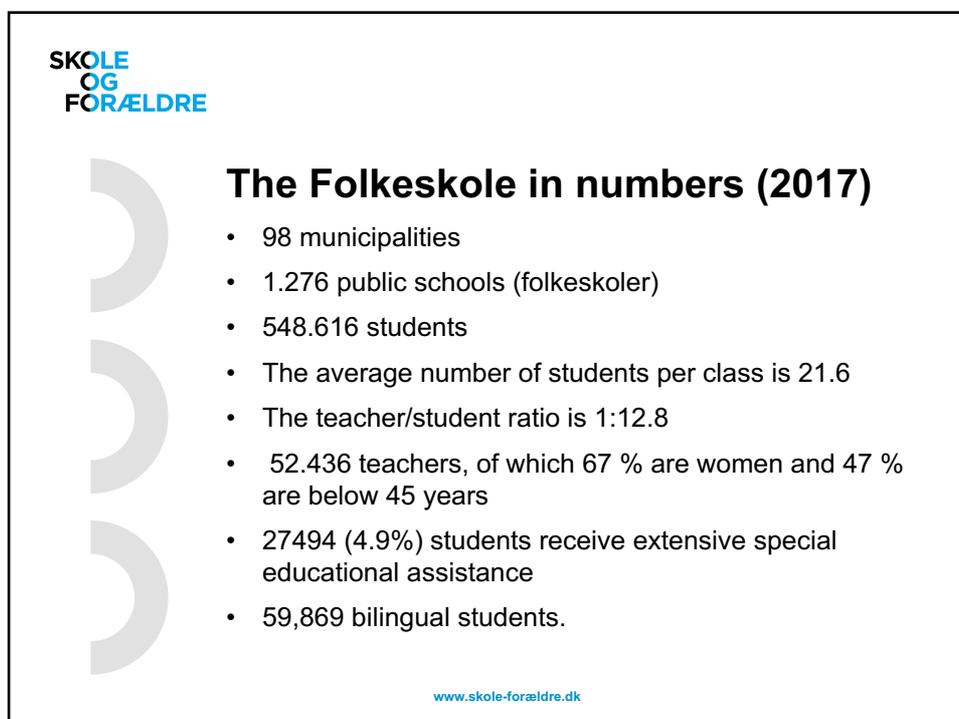




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## The Folkeskole of today

- School governance

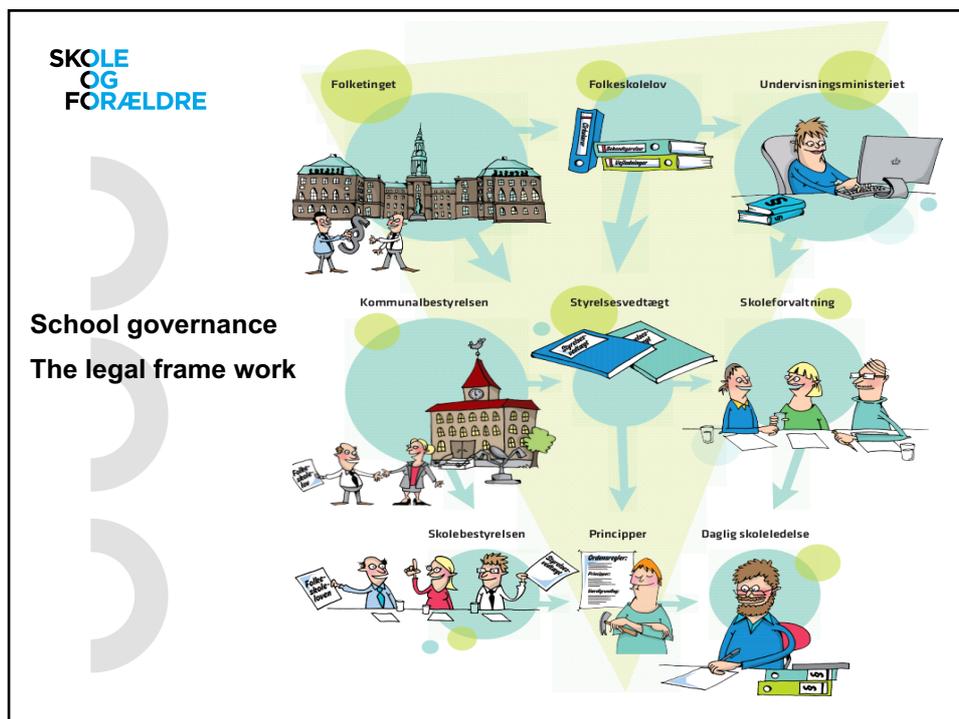


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### The Folkeskole in numbers (2017)

- 98 municipalities
- 1.276 public schools (folkeskoler)
- 548.616 students
- The average number of students per class is 21.6
- The teacher/student ratio is 1:12.8
- 52.436 teachers, of which 67 % are women and 47 % are below 45 years
- 27494 (4.9%) students receive extensive special educational assistance
- 59,869 bilingual students.

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## Law of the folkeskole

- › Frame law – all that is not forbidden, is allowed
- › By means of this Act and the Executive Orders it contains, all municipal primary and lower secondary schools share:
  - › a common aim,
  - › standard requirements concerning the subjects that are to be taught at the specific form levels,
  - › standard regulations concerning the **Common Objectives** for the teaching in the individual subjects,
  - › standard regulations concerning the leadership and organization of the school system.
- › The individual municipal boards determine how the municipality's schools are organized in practice, within the framework established by law. The municipal boards determine the municipal level of service (budget) for the Folkeskole and can set their own additional objectives for the schools.



[www.skole-forældre.dk](http://www.skole-forældre.dk)

## Legal frame work – national level

### Aims of the Folkeskole

- › The Folkeskole is, **in cooperation with the parents**, to provide students with the knowledge and skills that will prepare them for further education and training and instill in them the desire to learn more; familiarize them with **Danish culture and history**; give them an **understanding of other countries and cultures**; contribute to their understanding of the interrelationship between human beings and the environment; and promote the well-rounded **development of the individual student**.
- › The Folkeskole is to endeavor to develop the working methods and create a framework that provides **opportunities for experience**, in-depth study and allows for initiative so that students **develop awareness and imagination and a confidence in their own possibilities** and backgrounds such that they are able to commit themselves and are willing to take action.
- › The Folkeskole is to prepare the students to be able to **participate**, demonstrate **responsibility** and understand their **rights and duties in a free and democratic society**. The daily activities of the school must, therefore, be conducted in a **spirit of intellectual freedom, equality and democracy**.

[www.skole-forældre.dk](http://www.skole-forældre.dk) \* Danish law for primary schools

## Legal frame work - locally

- › Local bylaws
- › Policies on education and youth
- › Strategy on inclusion
- › Budget – local service level
- › Quality report for the school system and local schools
- › Advisory board – meets twice a year, at least



[www.skole-forældre.dk](http://www.skole-forældre.dk)



## Legal frame work – school level

- › The school's set of values
- › Internal regulations of the school board
- › Principles – politics, guidelines
- › School rules, anti-bullying strategy
- › Evaluation of the learning environment (physical, mental and esthetic) and plan of action to enhance the learning environment
- › Quality report for the local schools and action plan for the school.

## Skolebestyrelse the school board

## Welcome to the school board

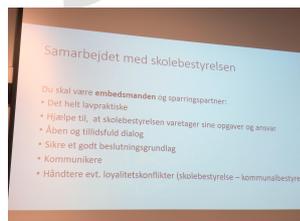
- › Elected for 4 years
- › 5-7 parents
- › 2 staff – teaching or administrative staff
- › 2 students
- › Headmaster is the secretary *with NO voting rights*



## Characteristics of influential boards

- › Works systematically with principles, politics and guidelines
- › Systematic supervision and evaluation of the implementation of principles
- › Good cooperation with the school's headmaster

Skole og forældres undersøgelse 2014





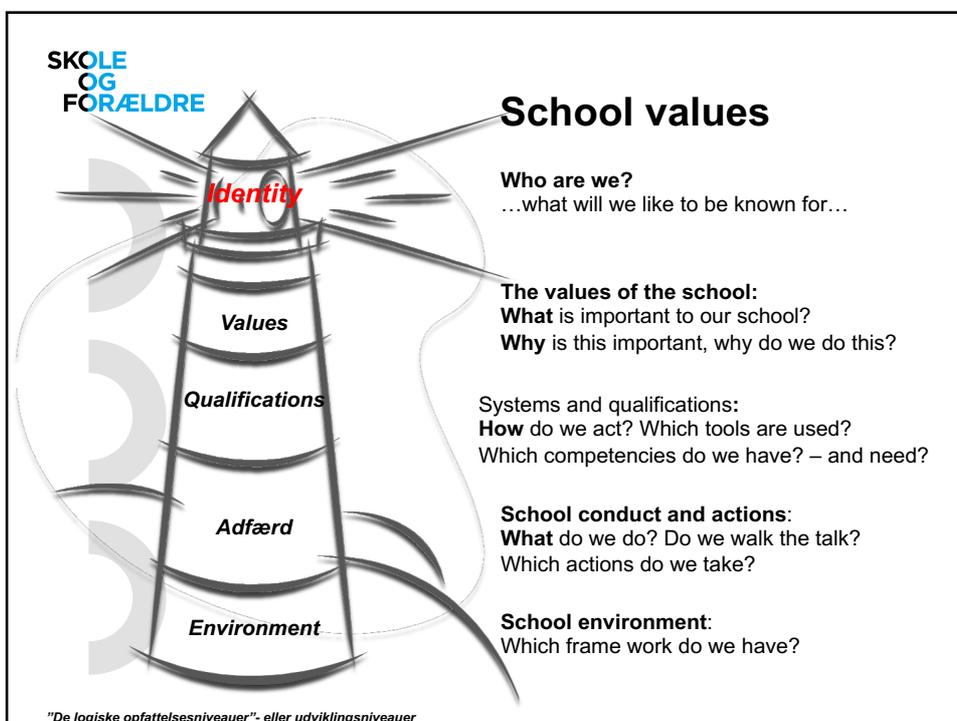
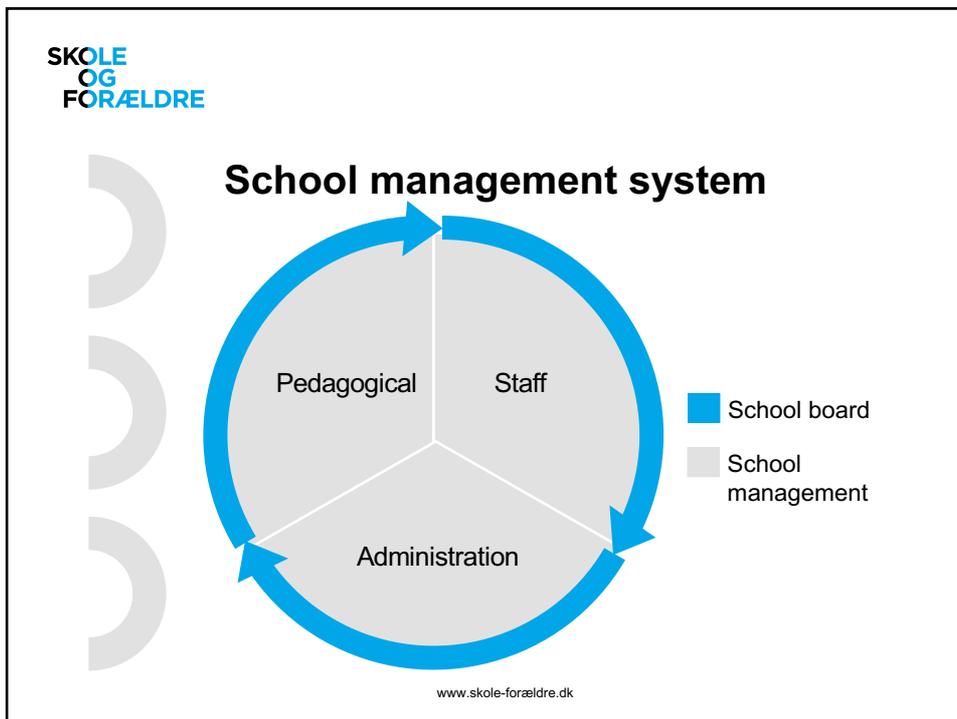
## Competencies of the school board §44

- › Principles – show direction without regulating in detail
- › Supervision of the entire school – except issues around individual staff / student
- › Deliver opinion on appointing the headmaster and staff
- › Approves the school budget (or not!)
- › Provides feedback on future (!) local bylaws
- › Political dialogue at local municipality level
  - › "Skole og Forældre" represents the school boards at the national governmental level and shares best practice

[www.skole-forældre.dk](http://www.skole-forældre.dk)

## Folkeskoleloven § 44

<b>Desides</b>	Principles, school rules, school values
<b>Proposes</b>	Projects and development
<b>Has a say on</b>	Appointments, curriculum, all other matters of the school and the quality report
<b>Approves</b>	School budget, teaching materials og culture activities
<b>Supervises</b>	All elements of the school, except perssonel and student matters
<b>Report</b>	Results of the board



## Schools must have principles for:

- › Organisation of education – timetable, electives, homework / or not, projects (length, number, resources)
- › Cooperation with local society (music school etc.)
- › Home-school cooperation and responsibilities of parents-school
- › Communication between home and school
- › Distribution of tasks between the staff groups
- › School events – theatre, play groups, individual feedback to parents, education plans, project preparations, etc
- › After school care

[www.skole-forældre.dk](http://www.skole-forældre.dk)

## A principle sets the course

- › The principle must be formulated in a way that leaves no doubt about the aim of the principle, but must leave room for management for the school head
- › A principle is not a dictate, but it must be clear to all whether the principle is followed or not.
- › Principles must comply with the school's values

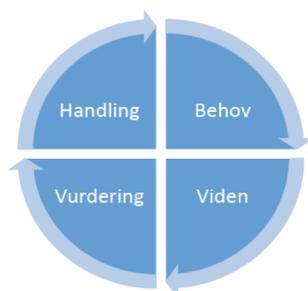


**Supervises**
**All elements of the school, except  
personnel and student matters**
**§ 44:**

The school board carries out its duties within the bylaws set by the municipal council

The school board supervises all parts of the school's activities, except for personnel and student matters.

The school board may obtain any information about the school's activities necessary to carry out the supervision from the headmaster.


**Tilsynscyklus**

**Behov:**

- Udarbejde eller evaluere princip
- Godkende eller følge op på budget
- Reagere på klager eller henvendelser
- Undersøge et område på skolen

**Viden:**

- Redegørelse fra skoleleder
- Rapporter, målinger og analyser
- Klager, henvendelser og observationer
- Tilbagemeldinger fra skolebestyrelsens baglande

**Vurdering:**

- Drøftelse og vurdering af status
- Beslutning om forbedringer

**Handling:**

- Orientering fra skolelederen om planlagte handlinger.
- Udarbejdelse/revision af princip mv.
- Justering i budget



## Sources of information

- › [www.uddannelsesstatistik.dk](http://www.uddannelsesstatistik.dk)
- › Quality reports
- › National tests
- › National measurement of student well-being
- › Evaluation of learning environment (students)
- › Evaluation of working environment (staff)
- › Absence of students and staff
- › Satisfaction survey of parents, students and staff



## Supervision outcome

- › **Recommendation:**
  - › The school board can recommend that the school leader to take action that addresses the situation. The school board cannot decide on concrete actions.
- › **Principles, school rules and values :**
  - › The board can reformulate or revise principles, school rules and values.
- › **Budget:**
  - › Specific areas and initiatives can be prioritized on the school budget..

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### Approves

### The school budget

Folkeskolelovens § 40, subsection 2:

The municipal council make bylaws and frameworks for the schools.

Decide the grants and financial framework for schools .

Section 44, subsection 3:

The school board approves the school budget within the financial framework set for the school by the municipal council.



## SKOLE OG FORÆLDRE

# Building competences Parents in school governance

[www.skole-forældre.dk](http://www.skole-forældre.dk)

## The challenge

- › Parents do not have knowledge of education and school governance
- › The school law grants the school board a powerful position, but the parents are perceived as incompetent
- › The power void of is taken over by the headmaster or the personnel representatives on the board
- › Conflicts between parents and headmaster on the board because of lack of knowledge and understanding of roles

## Enhancing competences

- › 4 year project (2014-17)
- › Funded by the Ministry of education
- › € 1.653.210
- › Extension for 2 years (2018-19) €402.241
  - › More tools for the toolbox
  - › Diversity on the school board
  - › Establish co-operation agreements with municipalities
  - › National championship in school development





## Enhancing competences

- › The purpose of the project is to enhance the competences of school boards, so that each school board can contribute to:
  - › Enhance trust and parent support of schools and increase parents' participation in school activities,
  - › Strengthen school development in accordance with initiatives in the reform of primary school (2014)
  - › Increase and widen the recruitment of parents for the school board election
  - › Strengthen overall co-operation at school by strengthening the role of the school board as a collaborative agent with the school's other parties and with the school's external stakeholders.

[www.skole-forældre.dk](http://www.skole-forældre.dk)



## Project elements

- › Digital platform <http://skole-foraeldre.dk/sektion/skolebestyrelsens-værktøjskasse>
  - › Toolbox, e-learning
- › Counseling
  - › <http://skole-foraeldre.dk/radgivning>
- › Publications
  - › [http://skole-foraeldre.dk/udgivelser?f%5b0%5d=im\\_field\\_category\\_publication%253A101](http://skole-foraeldre.dk/udgivelser?f%5b0%5d=im_field_category_publication%253A101)
- › Regional training seminars
  - › <http://skole-foraeldre.dk/artikel/materialer-fra-viden-og-erfaringsseminarer-2016>
- › Campaign - National Championship in school development
  - › <http://dmskoleudvikling.dk>

[www.skole-forældre.dk](http://www.skole-forældre.dk)

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### For further information.....



Online introkursus til arbejdet i skolebestyrelsen



[www.skole-forældre.dk](http://www.skole-forældre.dk)



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## We are all doing this for the children

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