

Your rights at a Folk High School

Are you studying at a Folk High School? Are you dissatisfied with your situation or in dispute with your school? Then you can turn to Folkhögskolornas studeranderättsliga råd. We can provide support and advice and inform you of what rights you have.

Folk High School is free with few common rules

Folk High School is a form of education and is governed by broad objectives and there are few common rules. The state grants that the folk high schools receive to run their operations are distributed by the Swedish National Council of Adult Education (Folkbildningsrådet). There are rules linked to the grants but it is not the task of Folkbildningsrådet to inspect and supervise the schools. The Swedish Education Act does not apply and the folk high schools do not have state syllabuses.

If you are studying at a folk high school, this means that it is the school's board who make most decisions that affect your situation and your rights at the school.

To strengthen the legal position of everyone studying at a Folk High School, there is an authority called Folkhögskolornas studeranderättsliga råd (FSR).

Dissatisfied? In dispute? What to do!

Are you dissatisfied with your situation or in dispute with your school? The first thing to do is to approach the school's principal. If you are not satisfied after having taken up the issue with the principal, you can report the issue to the school's board. When they have taken a decision on the issue and if you are still not satisfied, you can report the issue to the FSR.

What kind of issue can you report?

Here follow some examples of the kind of issue that you can report to the FSR:

- your course does not live up to what the school promised
- the school provided erroneous information about compulsory costs

- lack of student influence and students' rights
- shortcomings in the school's following up of study results and attendance
- a course is terminated or cancelled
- disciplinary measures (e.g. suspension or expulsion)

You cannot appeal study assessments to the FSR or to any other body.

The possibility to report issues to the FSR applies only to people studying courses longer than 15 days. The report must have been received by the FSR no later than one year after you leave the school.

What happens after a report?

It is the folk high school's board who are responsible for the school's activities and operations and decide what rules are to apply. The FSR's starting point when assessing an issue is therefore the folk high school's own rules and conditions.

The FSR can never change the school's decision but we can on the other hand make recommendations to the school. Most schools that have been reported have hitherto followed the FSR's recommendation.

Would you like to know more about how the FSR has reasoned in connection with different issues? Read more at

www.folkbildningsradet.se/fsr

Contact us:

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