

System of Two Teachers in Denmark

1. Need/challenge addressed

The purpose of the effort was to examine if three types of systems with two teachers in the classroom had an effect on the students' progression in Danish and Math; increase the students' wellbeing as well as increase the number of students' included in the classes.

2. Level of intervention

- The level of the intervention is universal in the sense that all the Danish municipalities could volunteer to participate. It was a large-scale randomized trial. The municipalities were selected based on amongst other factors, geography, school size and municipality size. Through a draw, certain schools were selected as 'control schools' and others were selected as the schools that would implement/test the system of two teachers.

3. Intensity of the intervention

The intensity of the intervention was periodic and the effort was carried out in the school year 2012/2013.

4. Target group and age group

The target group was the pupils in sixth form (age 11-12).

5. Conditions and different steps necessary for the implementation of the measure

All Danish municipalities could volunteer to participate in the effort and 68 municipalities entered. Out of the 68 municipalities, 18 municipalities were selected. The 18 municipalities were split into two groups where 12 of the municipalities were selected to an effort with a teacher and another resource person and 6 municipalities were selected to an effort with a professional tutor. The schools were split into groups and through a draw it was decided which schools were 'control schools' and which schools had to carry through the system of two teachers. The results of the final draw allocated 35 schools with a teacher, 35 schools with another resource person and 39 schools with a professional tutor. 112 schools were selected as 'control schools'.

6. Stakeholders involved in delivery of the measure

There were different types of school professionals involved in the effort: school principals, teachers, resource persons and professional tutors from within the different schools.

7. Overall responsibility for implementation of the measure

The municipalities had the overall responsibility for the implementation of the measure.

8. Monitoring / evaluation of the measure

The measure was monitored by researchers from Aarhus University, Denmark together with Ramboell Management Consulting.

9. Results

- The results show that all three types of systems with two teachers have some positive effects - but in different ways. Staff with qualifications other than a teaching degree has the greatest impact on pupils' reading skills. Students of parents with lower education benefited the most.
- Systems with two teachers with a teaching degree also have a positive effect on reading skills, but the effect is slightly smaller and the effect particularly concerns girls. On the other hand, the qualified teachers limit the need for additional support hours in general education and increases the wellbeing in classes where two or more of the students have a psychiatric diagnosis.
- The professional tutors which are the cheapest of the three schemes have only statistically significant effects in the classes in which one or more pupils have a psychiatric diagnosis. This helps the students - not least classmates - to become better readers.

Overall the effort shows how the different systems of two teachers can help in different ways depended on where the need is required in the individual class, school or municipality.

10. Resources / funding

The measure cost 31,5 million Danish Kroner (Euro: 4.219.691)

11. Current status of the measure

It was part of a temporary effort in the school year 2012/2013.