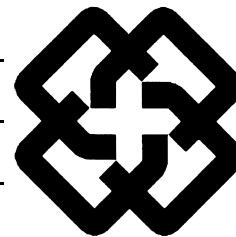


EDK	Schweizerische Konferenz der kantonalen Erziehungsdirektoren
CDIP	Conférence suisse des directeurs cantonaux de l'instruction publique
CDPE	Conferenza svizzera dei direttori cantonali della pubblica educazione
CDEP	Conferenza svizra dals directurs chantunals da l'educaziun publica
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Recommendations for the education of children of foreign language background

October 24, 1991

The Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK)

in acknowledging the resolutions of November 2, 1972, November 14, 1974, May 14, 1976, and October 24, 1985

agree on the following principles and recommendations:

1. The EDK confirms the principle that all children of foreign language background living in Switzerland should be integrated into the public school system. All forms of discrimination are to be avoided. The child's right to cultivate the language and culture of his or her country of origin is to be respected.

2. It is recommended that the cantons:
 - promote the integration of children of preschool age and enable a two years' attendance at kindergarten;
 - offer preschool children additional teaching of the colloquial language free-of-charge and support their development in the language of origin;
 - strive for the direct admission of newly arrived pupils in the type of school and class appropriate to their age and previous school background, supported by free-of-charge special assistance and language classes;
 - ease the transition of newly arrived secondary school students into vocational or further education by offering special training programs;
 - make appropriate allowance for foreign language background and knowledge of the language and culture of origin in pupil assessment, grade promotion and school selection decisions. Above all, the placement of children of foreign language background in special classes or the repetition of a school year only on the basis of a lack of mastery of the language of instruction is to be avoided;
 - offer extracurricular assistance to all children who are in need of;

- prepare teachers during their initial education and continuing education for teaching in multicultural classes, and encourage cooperation between foreign and local teachers;
 - take into account the needs of children of foreign language background and the requirements of an intercultural education for all pupils while developing curricula, teaching materials and class schedules;
 - take into consideration the needs of children of foreign language background and their families in matters of school organization;
 - invite universities and other educational and training institutions to deal with the topic of intercultural education;
 - include parents in the process of integration of their children. They should be informed adequately by the school authorities responsible. Furthermore, they should be listened to and have a say in relation to all important issues and at all school levels;
 - establish and support courses in the language and culture of origin of at least two hours per week, which should be, if possible, included in the regular school day, and incorporate the pupil's attendance record and grades in their school report;
 - promote and support intercultural contacts and teaching methods at all levels;
 - appoint responsible persons or establish sections in the cantons to promote and coordinate the implementation of the EDK recommendations.
3. It is recommended that the cantons invite local school communities to:
- make their facilities and any equipment necessary available at no cost as an important contribution to the integration, education and training of foreign children, adolescents and adults.
4. Non-school organizations are invited to:
- consider the difficult situation of many foreign adolescents, adults and parents and offer them cooperation and assistance.

Plenary Session from October 24, 1991