



Congress resolution

We are fighting for the future of the school

Schools are essential for developing society.

Denmark is facing a number of challenges. The schools' task is to strengthen society's opportunities to meet these future challenges.

Schools are to educate all pupils, so they can use their knowledge and skills in a creative and innovative context. Knowledge and skills are to help form the pupils, so they can manage their own lives, cope in society and think independently and critically as citizens in a democratic welfare society. The pupils have to succeed as individuals.

In today's competitive society focus has changed; today the main objective of schools and the entire educational system is to educate efficient labour. This is reflected in the requirement that all pupils/students must complete their education quicker, and this has resulted in an increased focus on achieving measurable results. The politicians have to drop the discourse that pupils and students are considered as expenses. Education is an investment in an unpredictable future.

As a result, broad academic skills have been replaced by narrow academic goals and more national tests despite the fact that international experience and research show that this simplifies the teaching and the knowledge pupils have when they leave school. This development is detrimental to the development of qualified labour as well as democratic citizens, and this is in conflict with the goals of the Danish school reform to curb negative social heritage.

We need a broad public debate and conscious political choices about how we prepare the Danish public basic school to qualify pupils for the future labour market as well as to become citizens in a democratic society. The educational policy is not to become merely a part of the employment policy.

Adopted at the congress of the Danish Union of Teachers assembled 10-12 September 2013