



## FINLAND

SUOMEN REHTORIT RY – FINLANDS REKTORER RF  
The Finnish Headmasters' Association



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Peter Johnson  
President

### Education in Finland

- Optional pre-school begins at age 6
- Compulsory comprehensive school: ages 7 – 16
- Upper-secondary school or vocational school: ages 16-18
- High public spending on higher education

### The professional ethics rules governing school heads

1. The school head is familiar with the goals set by society for education and strives towards attaining them.
2. The head respects the uniqueness, inviolability and equality of every member of the work community.
3. The head is responsible for seeing to it that the viewpoint of the pupil/student is valued.
4. The head is responsible for the safety of the working environment.
5. The head seeks to develop his/her professional knowledge and skills and to raise the esteem of the profession.
6. The head is in charge of the running of the school. ( by SURE-FIRE, 1996)

The goal of the **SURE FIRE** association is to function as a forum for the members to strengthen their professional skills, to promote their pedagogical, administrative and theoretical capabilities.

Suomalainen on sellainen, joka vastaa kun ei kysytä, kysyy kun ei vastata, ei vastaa kun kysytään, sellainen, joka eksyy tieltä, huutaa rannalla ja vastarannalla huutaa toinen samanlainen: metsä raikuu, kaikuu, hongat humajavat. Eikä suomalaista erota suomalaisesta mikään, ei mikään paitsi kuolema ja poliisi. (Jorma Etto)

### Some international benchmarking of education in Finland:

- Share of upper-secondary graduates 90% (OECD 82%)
- Tertiary Education net entry rate 73% (OECD 53%)
- Pupil/teacher ratio 16:1
- Average class size (grades 7–9) 19.9 (OECD average 23.6)
- One computer per 8 students (OECD average 1:13)