LUFS

The National Society for Neighbourhood Schools in Norway

www.lufsf.no
LUFS is:

• A decentralized organization based on volunteers.
• Non-party political.
• Consultative body.
The aims of LUFS:

• To maintain a decentralized school structure.

• High quality teaching in small schools with multi-age classes.
Schools where people want to live..

- Must be a basic right.
- Gives quality in a growing up environment
  - Centralization will result in:
    - Longer working hours
    - Reduced learning outcomes
    - Weaker understanding of importance of local community
    - Decreased health
    - Less leisure time
    - Less cooperation between parents and school
Schools in the local community are crucial for:

- Good growing up environments.
- Confidence in the future – and settlement
  - Families with children do not settle down in a community without a school
  - Neither do businesses.
  - Stagnation and de-population of rural areas?
Learning in multi-age classes is positive

- “The small schools are good schools, well suited to the future. They provide a good professional and social start in life.
- This is documented by Norwegian and international research.”

(Kristoffer Melheim, senior university teacher, Sogn and Fjordane University College, Norway)
Multi-age classes teach the basics

- Children learn from each other and from grown-ups, with age difference as a prime mover.
- The children`s culture dies without age mixing. (Jon Roar Bjørkvold, professor)
Multi-age classes in big schools.

- Big schools are adopting multi-age classes – a didactic/educational technique used in small schools for a long time.
- LUFS offers multi-age classroom training for teachers.
Schools in rural areas—worth fighting for..

- Closed down since 1986
  - 800 neighbourhood schools in Norway.

- Irresponsible development
  - County councillors believe restructuring saves money.
  - Matters are often not handled according to law.
  - Alternative use of funding could have provided at least one extra school in each Norwegian county.
  - Quality is believed to be connected to big schools.
18 special interest organizations support the work of LUFS

• These organizations demand that:
  – Central and local politicians should take required steps to stop closing schools.
  – The authorities should provide a plan to maintain small schools in rural areas.
  – Small schools in rural districts should be established as a right.
The Norwegian parliament says the following about LUFS:

- “LUFS is doing an important job for parents and pupils connected to small schools.”
LUFS believes:

- A democracy should be based on a public, free school system, where all can meet.
- Private schools can split communities and undermine county economies,
- closed down schools should still be allowed to carry on if they follow the national curriculum
The National Society for Neighbourhood Schools in Norway

- works to strengthen small schools in rural districts,
- offering advice and educating parents, teachers and others...
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