

Country Profile NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

1. Basic information

Country name: North Rhine-Westphalia

Structure of inspectorate:

- Inspectorates in the five governmental districts working by the same regulation and standards

Age of inspectorate:

- Established in 2006

Size:

- About 90 inspectors + pedagogical assistants and administrative staff (which slightly varies from district to district)

Remits:

- All types of public schools + church schools

Unit of inspection:

- Individual schools

What is your strapline?

Relationship with government:

- The Ministry of Education holds responsibility for school inspection in NRW and decides on regulations and standards.

Accountability:

- Regulations in the School Law from 2005 and the decree concerning school inspection from 2007 (currently being revised)
- At the end of the process schools get a quality report that highlights their strengths and weaknesses.
- Each inspector has to carry out about 18 school inspections per school year.
- Each department reports annually to the ministry.

2. Evaluation process

Self-evaluation:

- The [Inspection Framework of North Rhine-Westphalia](#) contains criteria which refer to self-evaluation as a basis for quality development.

What do you examine during inspection?

Quality Analysis looks at (and grades)

- the curricula
- learning and teaching, which includes observing lessons
- how the school understands and structures their process of development

Do you have an inspection framework?

The basis for quality analysis is the above mentioned Framework (which is closely connected to the Reference Framework for School Quality North Rhine-Westphalia). It explains and defines the decisive components of teaching and school quality.

Inspection time and resource.

The procedure of Quality Analysis consists of a preliminary phase and a main phase. Schools actively contribute to organizing and designing their 'own' inspection. That means that in addition to the compulsory criteria of the inspection framework, optional criteria can be agreed on by the school and the school inspection team in the "initiative meeting", which is part of the preliminary phase. Depending on the school's development stage, the main phase takes place within a maximum of two years after this meeting.

The school visits in the main phase are usually carried out by three inspectors within three days, though depending on the number of staff and the size of a school the school visit can last up to four days and there can also be further support by an additional inspector for one or two days.

Leadership experience is a prerequisite for becoming a school inspector. Within a period of six months, the new inspectors complete several theoretical and practical training modules.

Frequency of inspections:

The aim is to visit schools every five years, but with the great number of elementary schools this can currently not be achieved. "Weak schools" have a follow-up analysis within a shorter period.

Main business:

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3. Consequences of inspection

Reporting:

The quality report provides the school with a detailed feedback on their quality profile which is based on the Framework for School Quality. It is sent to the school, the municipal school administration and the School Supervisory Board.

Grade:

Schools get a four-scaled feedback on each criterion (from ++ which means excellent to -- which means very poor). The criteria related to lessons are not graded.

As the aim is that each institution has to undergo a process of improvement there is no ranking, but "Weak schools" can get additional support.

Knowledge sharing:

The Ministry of Education and QUA-LiS NRW have published the latest report in 2016.

What happens following an inspection?

The quality report will be analysed by the various panels of the school who decide if the report (or parts of it or a summary) will be published. They agree on priorities for improvement and measures to achieve them as a basis for the target agreement with the School Supervisory Board.

What is the stated purpose of your inspectorate? Do you have a theory of action about how improvement is achieved through inspection?