

Geographical Challenges in Greenland

Greenland has a high rate of dropouts from upper secondary school. An initiative to reduce the dropout rate is a central part of the parliament's (Inatsisartut) long-term plan for the field of education. A large proportion of students living and studying far from home appears to be a significant cause of young people dropping out of upper secondary school.

The country is carrying out a number of pilot projects with various forms of counselling and individual support for students. The test projects are part of the national initiative Education Plan 2005-2020. The goal is to develop durable strategies to systematically reduce dropout rates. The project is funded by the Ministry of Education, Church, Culture and Gender Equality. A working group has been established. Its aim is to allocate funds and monitor various initiatives to decrease the dropout rate.

Serving Institutions and People

The target audience for the projects is all educational institutions in Greenland above primary school, as well as pupils and students at these institutions. Various forms of counselling and individual support to students who are experiencing academic, social or psychological problems during their education are tested.

Funds have been allocated to conduct projects and pilot studies focusing on reducing dropout after elementary school level. The majority of these projects have been established within the various forms of youth counselling and student counselling. Individual monitoring is central to these various types of projects. The working group specifically mentions projects focusing on:

- Psychological counselling and guidance
- Tutors and student coaches
- Dormitory coaches and a mistress who helps the youths, most of whom live independently for the first time, with domestic duties such as cooking