

How A School System Works

Education

The layers between a national government and a single classroom.

Systems differ, but the same functions have to sit somewhere.

Functions to locate

Who sets the curriculum

Who awards qualifications

Who funds schools, and on what formula

Who inspects and holds to account

Who employs and trains teachers

Typical arrangements

Centralised: ministry sets most of it

Federal: states or provinces decide

Devolved: schools or trusts run themselves

Municipal: local authorities run schools

Mixed: funded publicly, run independently

Educational reference. Comparisons between countries are only meaningful once you know which layer holds each function.