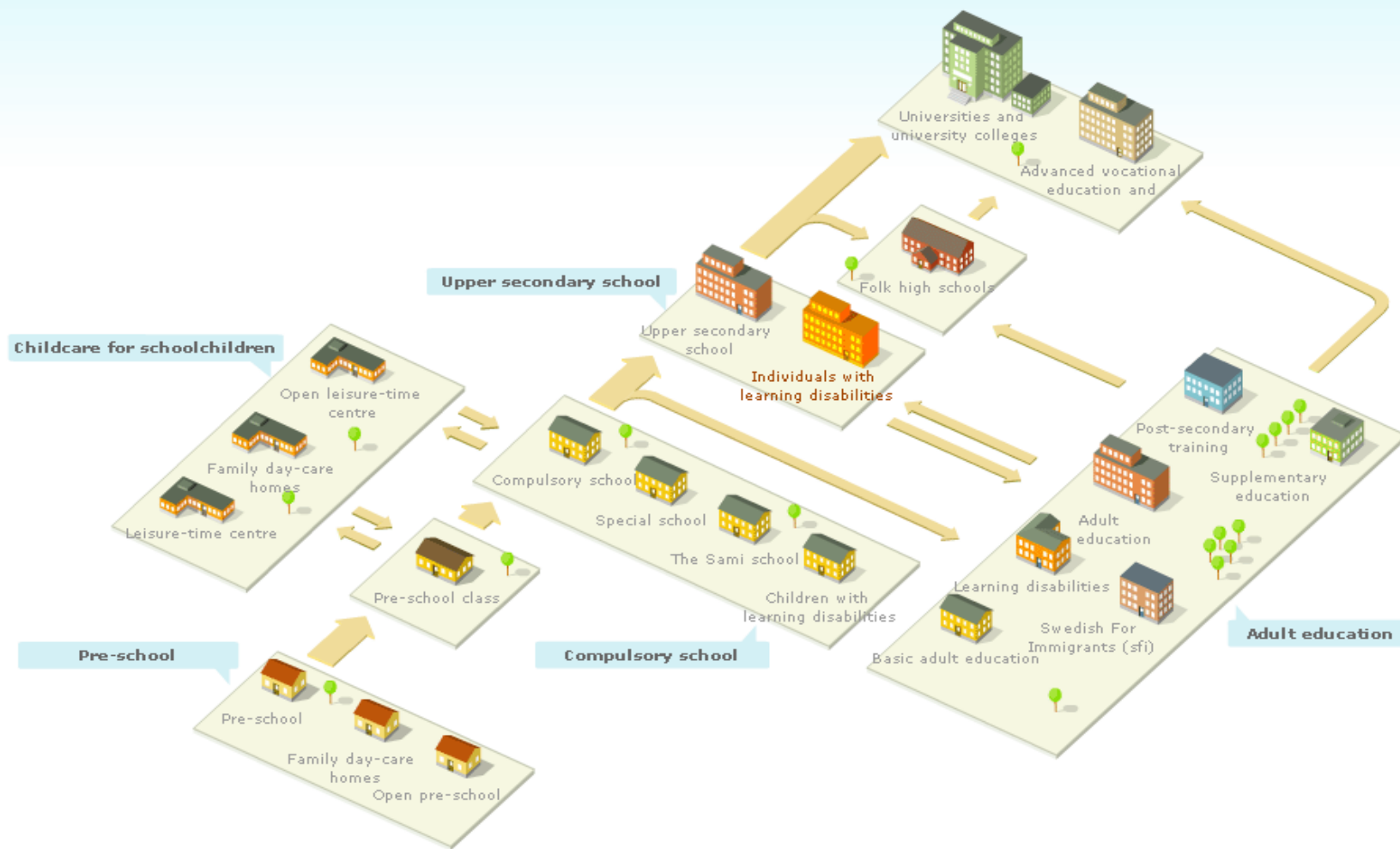


# A guided tour through the Swedish school system



# Malte, 2



## Pre-school, 1-5

- Twin tasks
- Financed with public funds
- National curriculum
- Well-educated teachers

# Pre-school class

**6 year olds  
preparation for school**

# Erik and Achmed



## **Compulsory school, 7-16**

**9 years**

**No graduation exams**

**Very few choices – language,  
free studies**

**No fees in municipal or  
independent schools**

# Subjects in compulsory school

**Arts**

**Home and Consumer studies**

**Physical education and Health**

**Music**

**Textiles and Wood- and metalwork**

**Swedish**

**English**

**Mathematics**

**Geography, History, Religion, Civics  
(combined)**

**Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Technology  
(combined)**

**Language options**

**Pupil options**

# Jelena, Anna and Samira



# Upper secondary school, 16-19

- **Higher education preparatory programmes**
- **Vocational programmes**
- **Individual programs**

# Lee and Elisabeth



# Adult education

**Municipal adult education**

**Adult education for individuals  
with learning disabilities**

**Swedish for immigrants (SFI)**

# The steering system

**A goal-based system with a high degree of local responsibility**

**Main responsibility with the municipalities and boards of independent schools**

**Overall national goals set out by Parliament and Government in**

- **the Education Act**
- **curricula**
- **course syllabi for compulsory school etc.**
- **program goals for upper secondary school**

# National school authorities

**The National Agency for  
Education**

**The School Inspection**

**The National Agency for Special  
Needs Education and Schools**

## **Some characteristics of the Swedish school system**

**A very decentralised system**

**National curriculum and national tests**

**Free choice of schools, municipal or independent**

**No regulation of group, class or school sizes**

**The teacher decides on methods and materials**

# School reforms

- **A new school law**
- **Review of pre-school curriculum**
- **Review of compulsory school curriculum, syllabi and grading criteria**
- **New national grading scale**
- **National tests**
- **New structure and course syllabi in upper secondary school**
- **Authorisation system for teachers**