



# THE FINNISH SCHOOL SYSTEM

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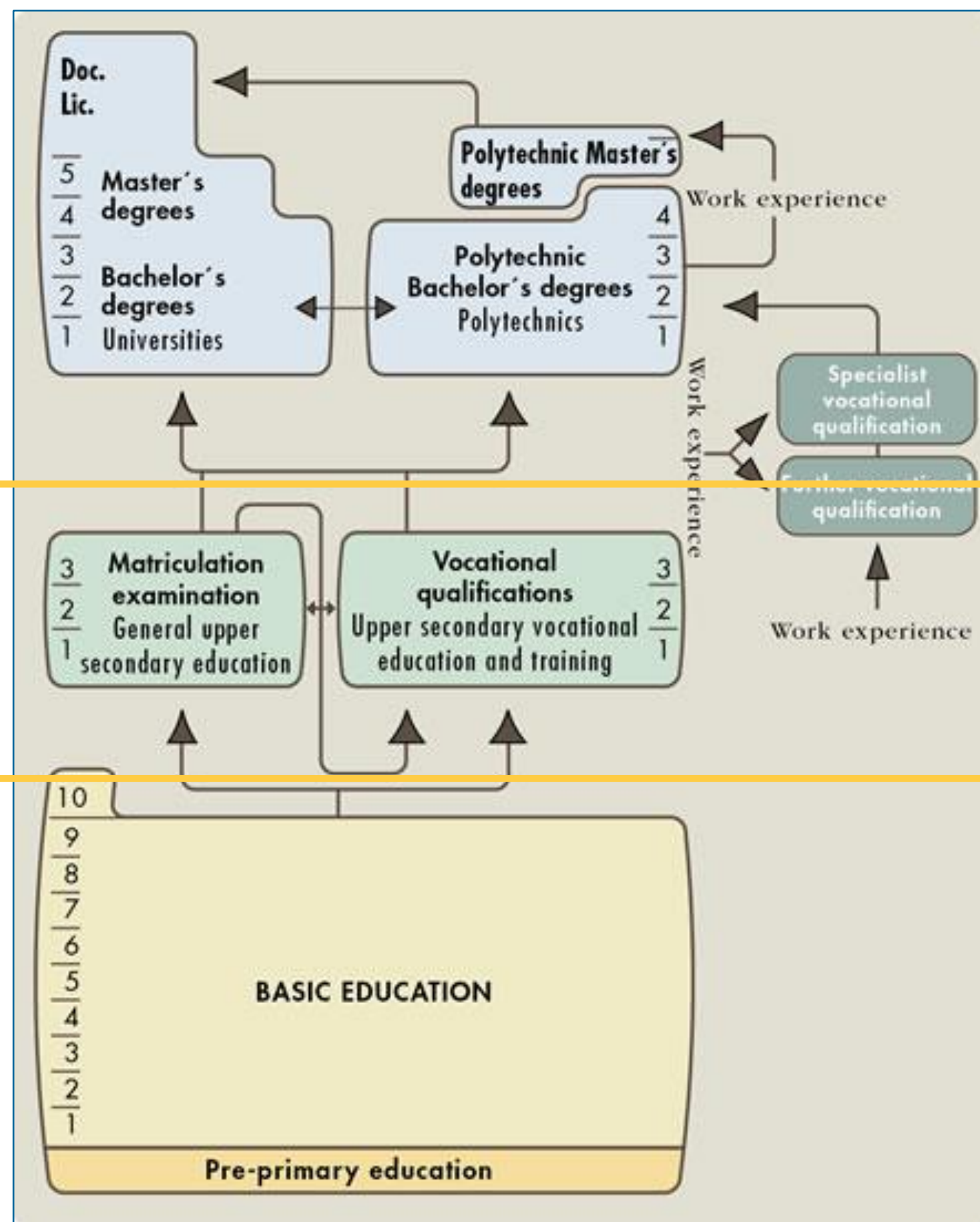
FREE

- except the books & lunches
- + study & rent grants (monthly)

FREE

- except the books
- + a study grant (based on parents' income)

FREE



# GOOD FOOD - GOOD ENERGY TO STUDY

**SCHOOL MEALS GENERALLY CONSIST OF TYPICAL FINNISH FOODS.**

**A GOOD SCHOOL MEAL CONSISTS OF**

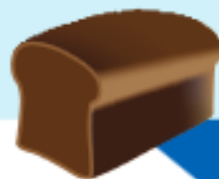
▪ a warm main course



▪ a side of vegetables



▪ bread and table spread



▪ a drink



▪ water to quench thirst



# IN GENERAL

- Mostly publicly funded
- Compulsory 7-17 years

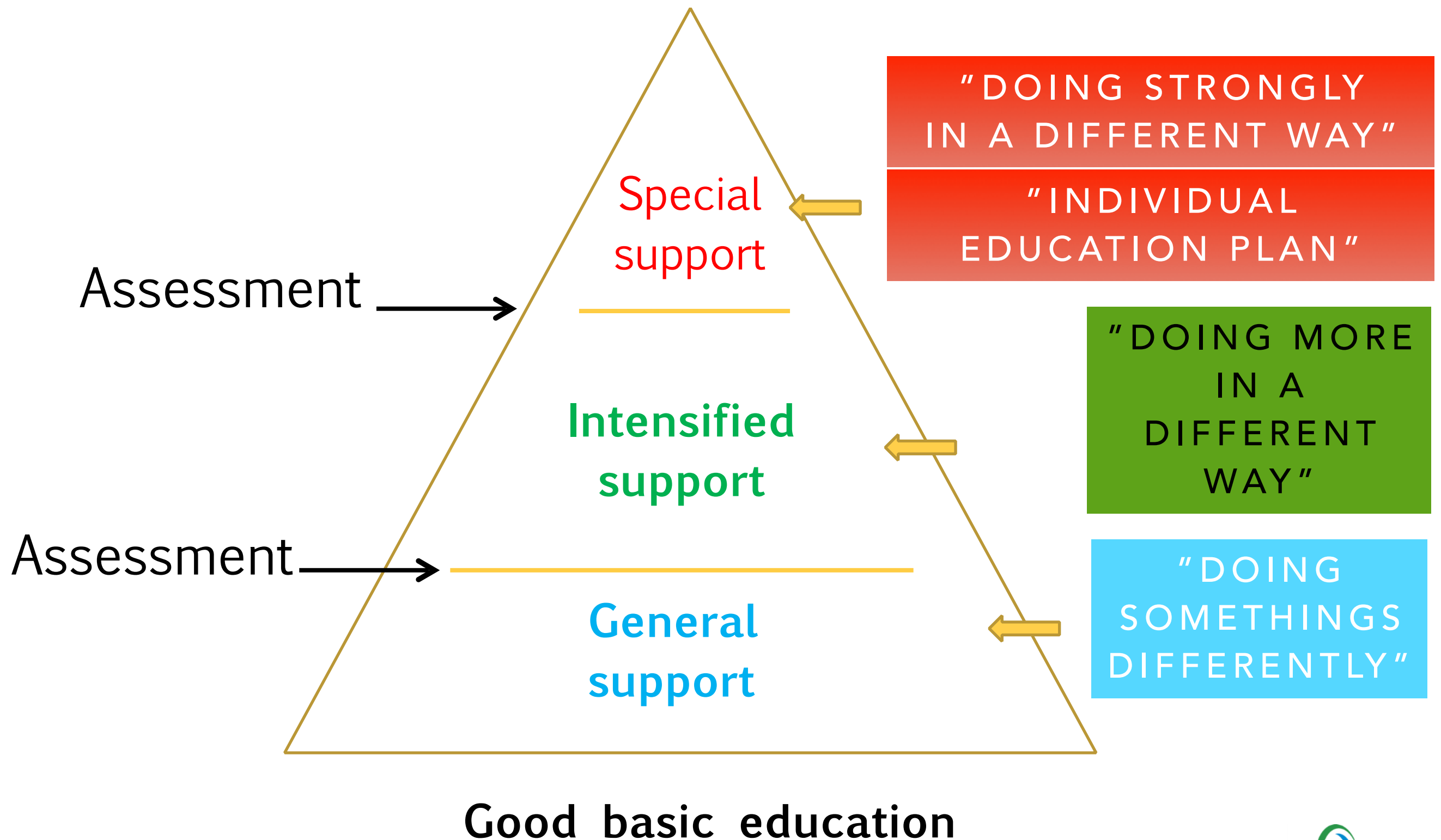
## **Basic education** (comprehensive schools)

- New national curriculum '16
  - > city level --> school curriculum
- Cross curricular themes
- Pedagogical freedom & less paperwork
- 190 days
- Class teacher (1-6) & subject teachers (onwards)
- No NATIONAL testing --> steering, not controlling
- SEN (special needs education) in mainstream schools





# 3-STAGE MODEL FOR SUPPORT





# Individual Educational Plan (IEP)

- written pedagogical document
- subjects can be individualized
- revised at least once a year

**General – Intensified – Special**

← If considered, a pupil may move back. →

The need is revised: after the 2nd year and before the 7th



IF/WHEN  
A CHALLENGE APPEARS!  
WHAT ARE THE STEPS?



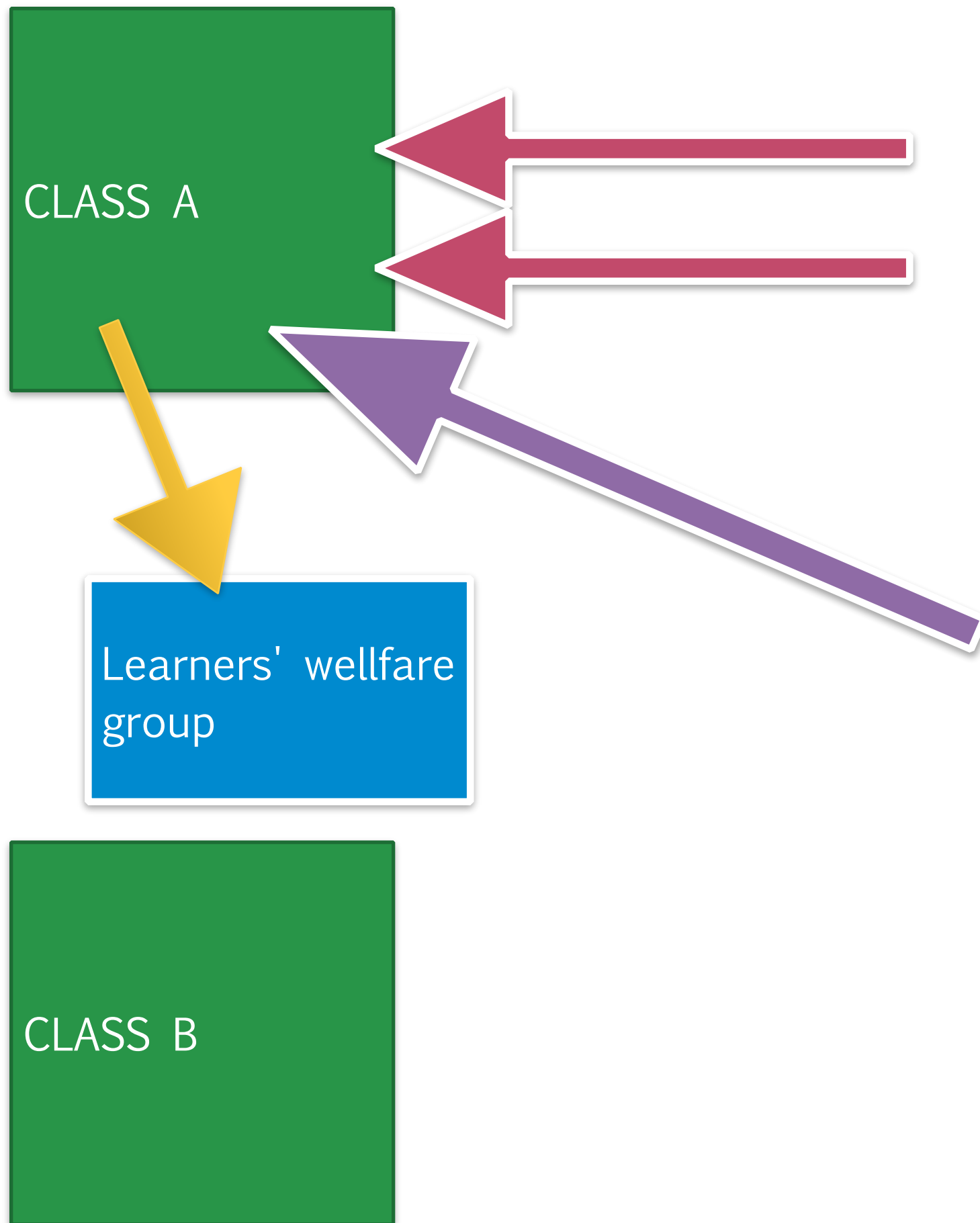


- Extra hours
- TA of the class
- TA of the school



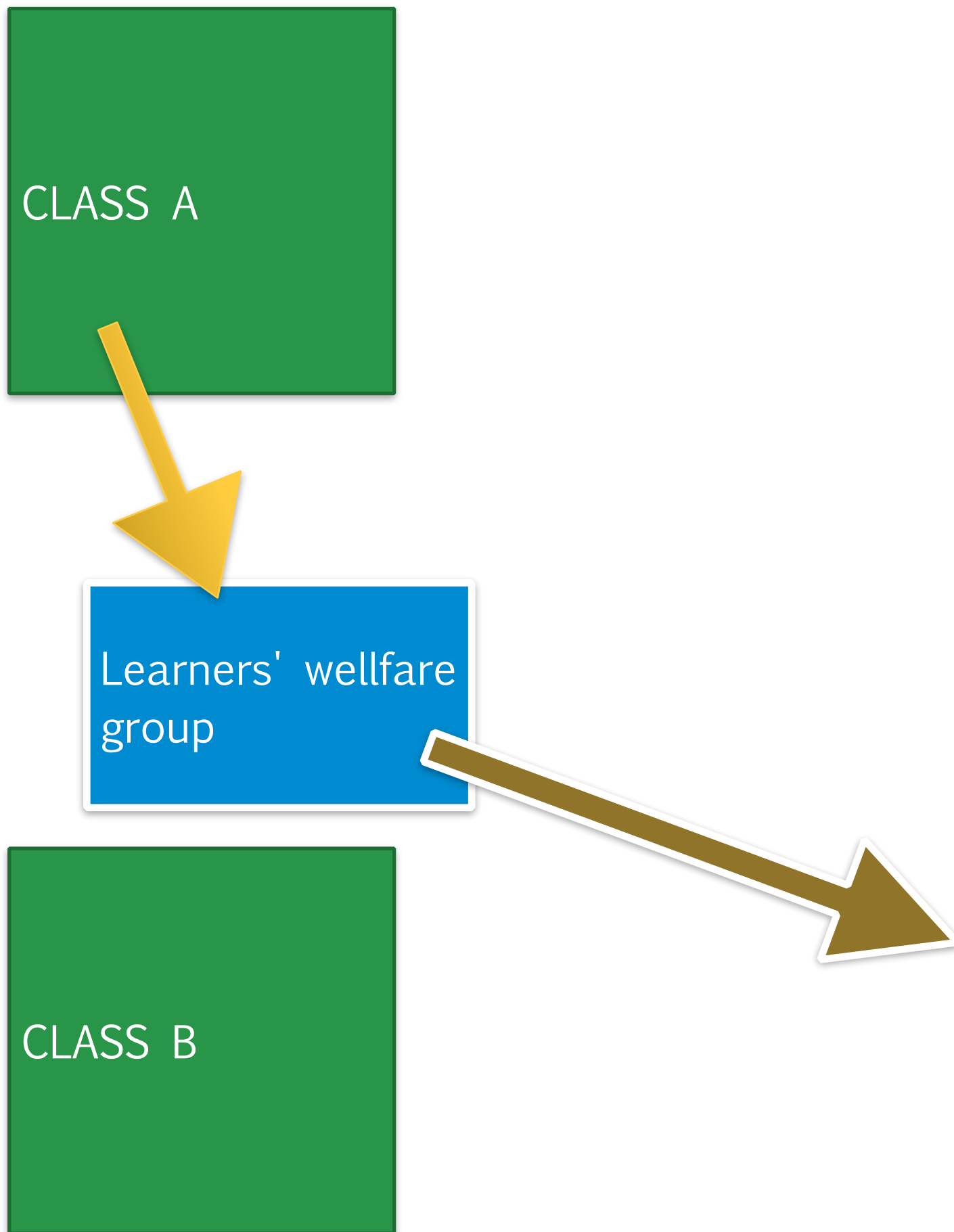
- (Broad) SEN teacher
- SEN teacher's temporary group
- SEN class
- SEN school



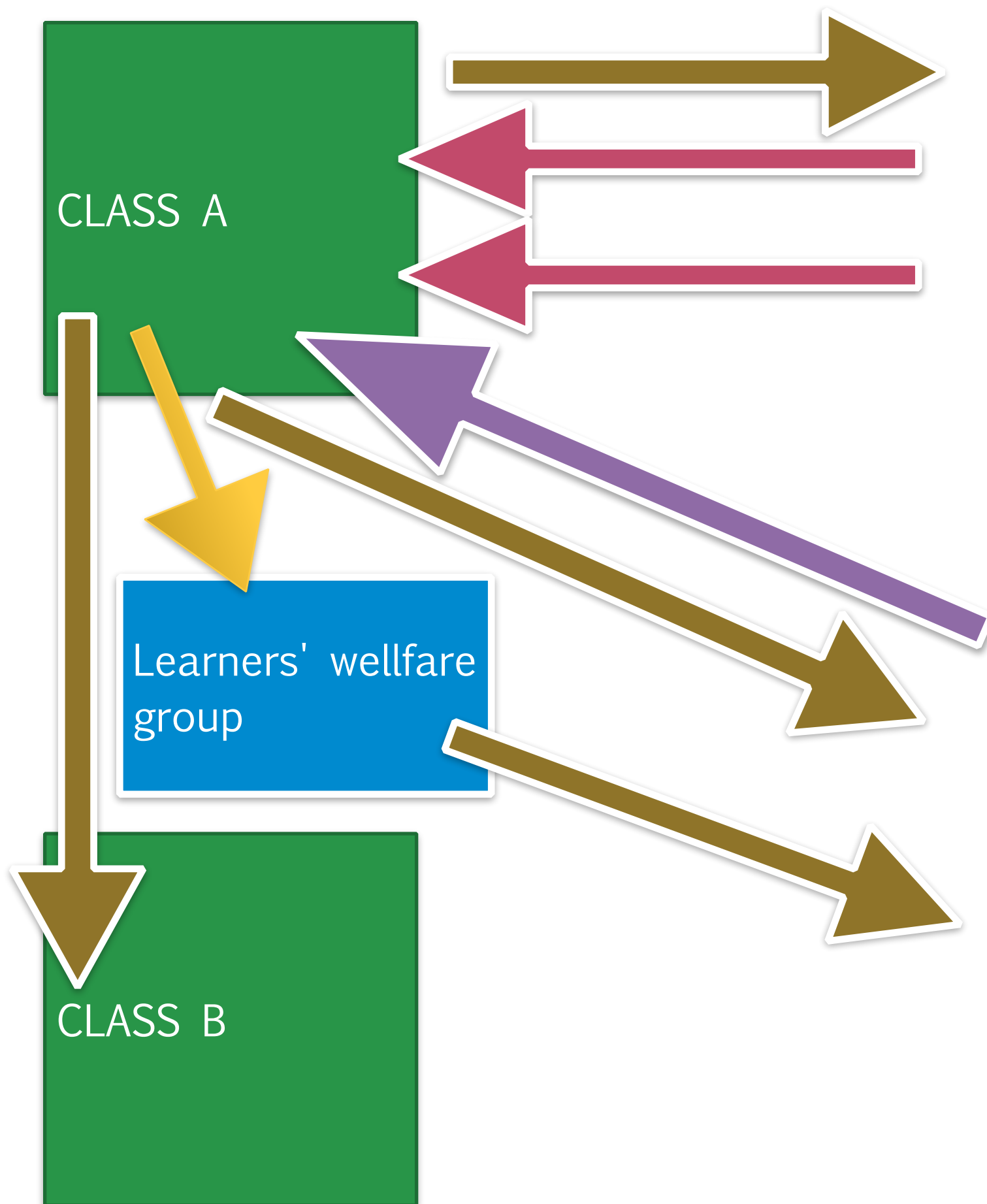


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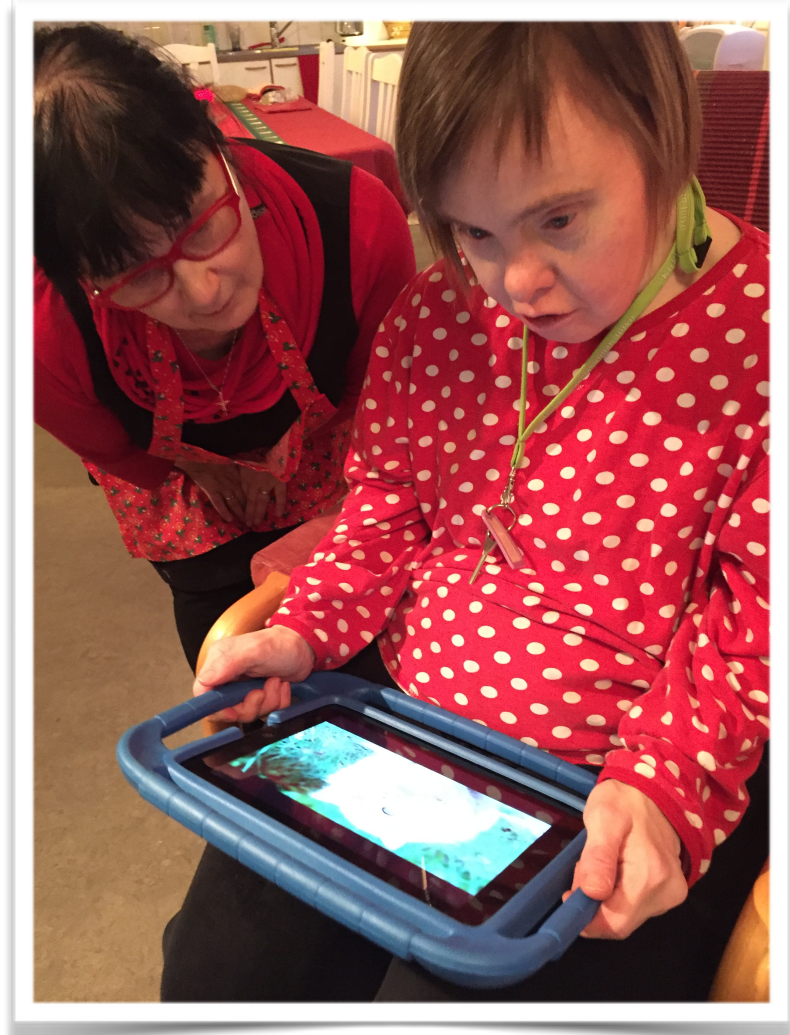
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# INCLUSION IN FINNISH SCHOOLS

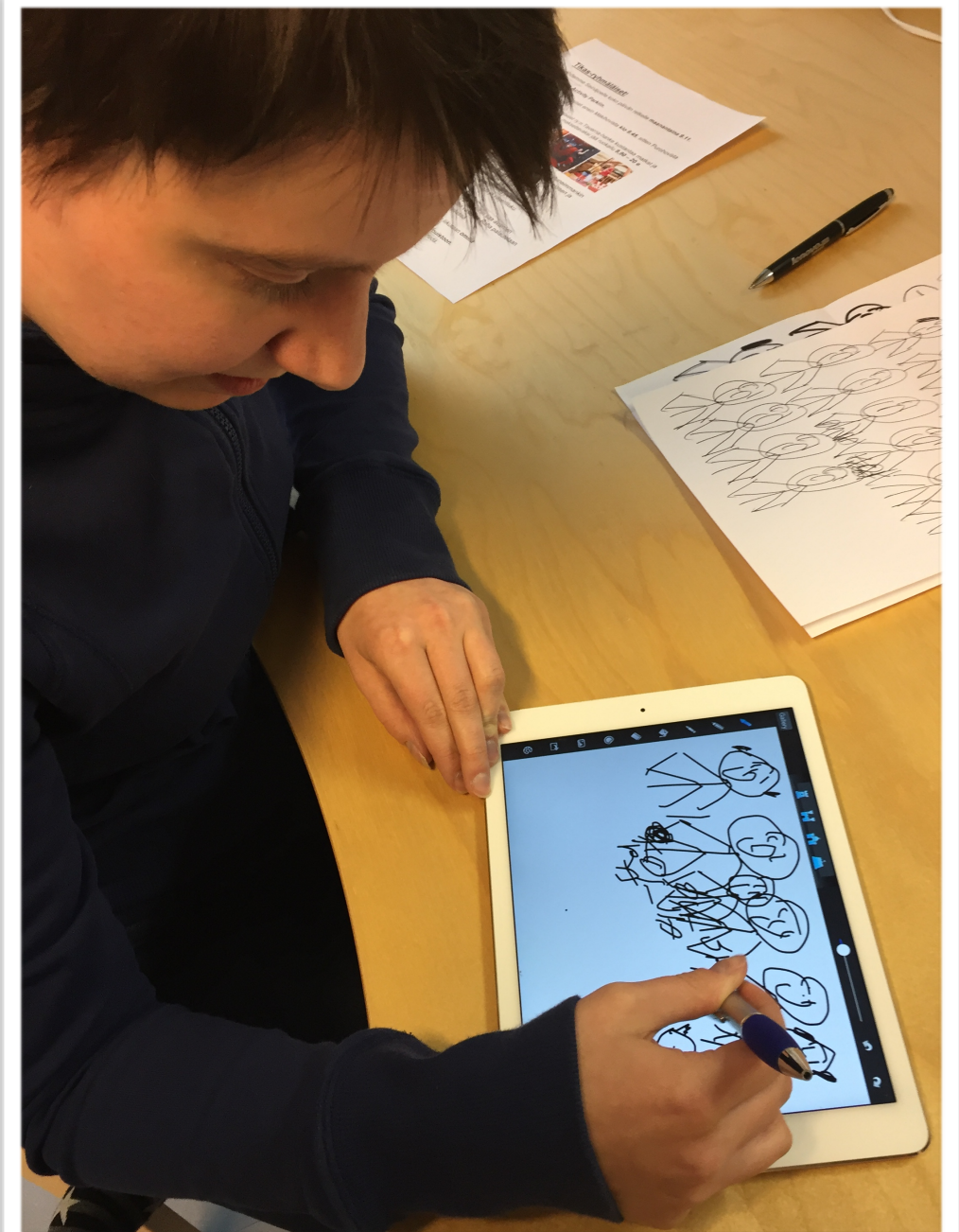
## Key principles:

- Every one is individual and equal
- Nearby school culture
- *the support comes to the pupil*
- Building community values in school
- From barriers to resource targeting
- Teaching everyone together



# INCLUSION IN FINNISH SCHOOLS

- Mainstream schools  
2 576 – SEN 105 (4%)
- SEN schools -->
- Learning resource centres  
with innovative pedagogical  
practices
- Positive discrimination  
money to schools





# GENERAL OR VOCATIONAL UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION

- 3 years
- Give eligibility for higher education.
- < 40% choose Vocational:
  - 1) Technology 2) Communications and Transport  
3) Social services, health and sports.
- Students are chosen based:
  - on grades  
or/and
  - entrance and aptitude tests



# HIGHER EDUCATION

- Universities:
  - emphasise scientific research
- Polytechnics (universities of applied sciences)
  - adopt a more practical approach
- Very autonomous  
(instruction & whole academic year)







**GOOD TEACHERS  
USE  
GOOD TOOLS**







Source: [hardik.practutor.com](http://hardik.practutor.com).



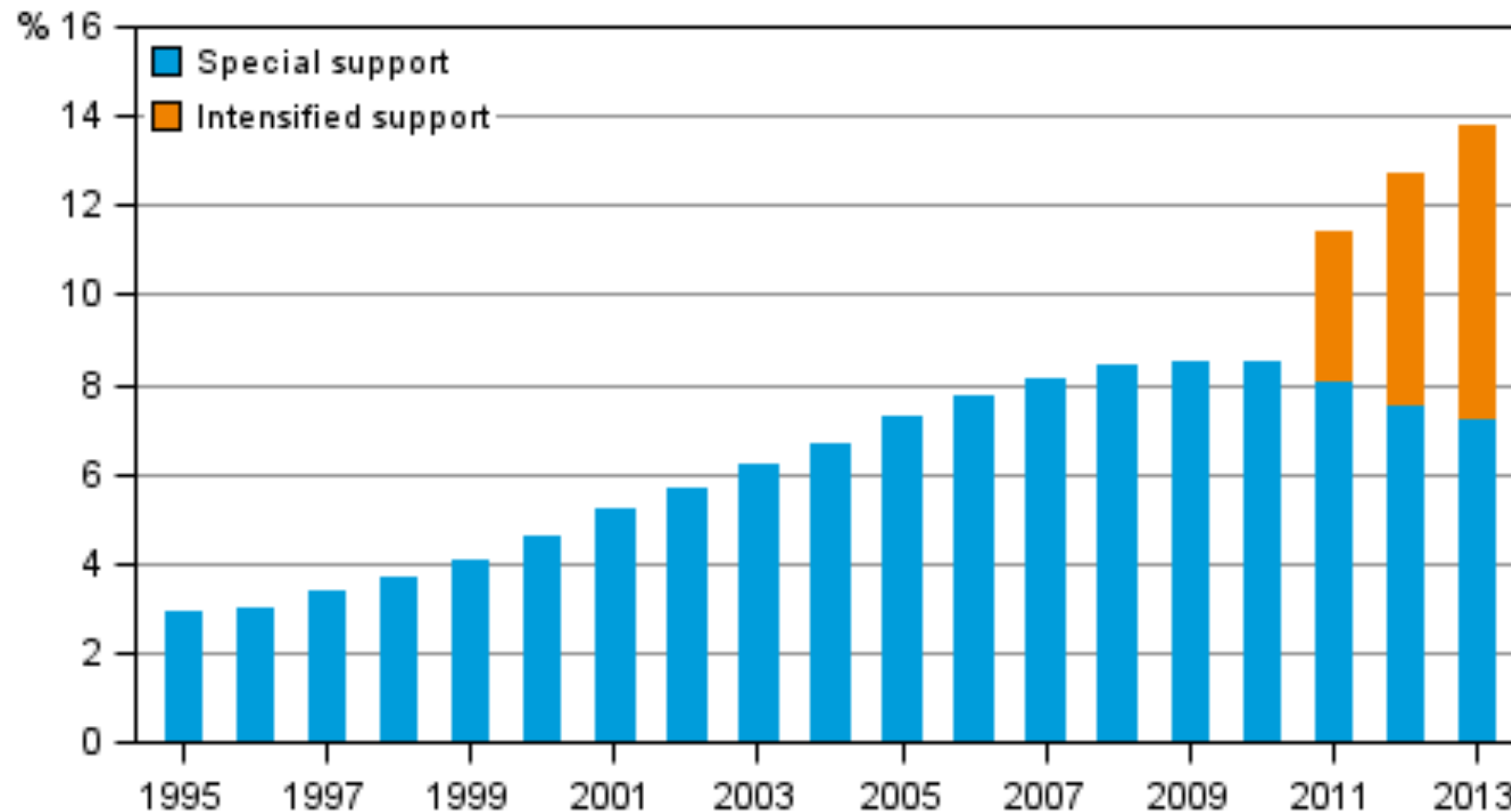
A photograph of the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) in a dark night sky. The aurora displays vibrant green and yellow-green curtains of light. In the bottom left corner, the dark silhouettes of several tall pine trees are visible against the glowing sky.

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RESOURCES: WWW.VISITFINLAND.FI WWW.OPH.FI WWW.OPM.FI

# SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION IN COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS (2013)



- Intensified support: 6,5 %
- SEN-students with IEP: 7,3 %



# SOME REASONS:

- Earlier diagnostics
- Larger need for special education
- New categories for support
- Changes in statistics
- Changes in laws



**1.general support**

**2.intensified support**

**3.special support**

- for pupils who cannot achieve their growth, development and learning objectives through other support measures
- an administrative decision
  - consulting the pupil and parents
- a holistic and systematic support
  - to complete compulsory education
- Revised: after the 2nd year and before the 7th
- individual educational plan (IEP)
- Right for a learning assistant
- +1 year for people with profound disabilities





# STUDYING ACCORDING TO ACTIVITY AREAS

- divided into functional domains
  - motor skills
  - language and communication
  - social skills
  - daily living skills
  - cognitive skills