

## Governmentality and the Norwegian Knowledge Promotion Reform

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**Abstract :** The Norwegian 'knowledge promotion reform' was implemented in elementary schools and upper secondary schools in 2006. The goal of the reform was that all pupils should develop basic skills and competencies in order to take an active part in the knowledge society. This paper discusses how governmentality as a management principle is demonstrated through the Norwegian 'knowledge promotion reform'. Evaluation reports and political documents are the basis for the discussion. The 'knowledge promotion reform' was including quality assurance for schools, teachers, and students and the authorities retained control by using curricula and national tests. The reform promoted several intentions that were not reached. In light of governmentality, it seemed that thoughts and intentions by the authorities differed from those in the world of practice. The quality assurances did not motivate the practitioners to be self-governing. The relationship between the authorities and the implementation actors was weak, and the reform was, therefore, difficult to implement in practice.

**Keywords :** governance, governmentality, the Norwegian knowledge promotion reform, education, politics

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