

Political consequences of the school network rationalization in Polish municipalities

Political consequences of the school network rationalization. The evidence from Polish municipalities

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ABSTRACT

The municipalities play important role in the Polish educational system. Local authorities are responsible for conducting primary and junior high schools (lower-secondary schools). One of the major tasks of local authorities is to establish, organize and maintain schools network suitable for the particular the local unit. The decreasing number of students in elementary schools and financial issues strongly dependent on the number of students necessitate changes in the network of schools, including their closing. This problem is especially concerns small municipalities with low number of population and low budget income. The extreme form of schools network rationalization, which is, schools closing cause political costs for local authorities responsible for such decisions.

In the proposed paper, the author would like to present the results of research focused on schools system rationalization in Polish municipalities during 2006-2014. Based on the selected case studies, processes of school liquidation and its consequences will be and, based on the selected examples, the analysis of the school liquidation and its social and political consequences brought to the municipal authority will be shown.