

# Þróunarsjóður innflytjendamála 2015-16

## Development Fund for Immigration Issues

**Project: Immigrants in education: a new challenge. Parents and educators' perspectives in Akureyri, Iceland**

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### **Abstract**

Students with immigrant backgrounds succeed less well in Icelandic schools than their classmates with Icelandic backgrounds. The aim of this article is to understand this situation from the perspectives of teachers and parents of immigrant students. Thirty-eight teachers were interviewed about the challenges and experiences of teaching immigrant students. Ten parents were also interviewed about their experiences of the Icelandic school and their children's education. The findings revealed that teachers are unsupported in their quest for understanding and managing multicultural education and that the Icelandic school system challenges foreign parents understanding of school as a traditional place for learning. It is suggested that addressing the lack of collaboration and discussion between both parties on students' needs and parents' expectations could improve the education of immigrant students.