

## Curriculum Change in Turkey: Some Critical Reflections

*Hülya Koşar-Altınyelken and Güliz Akkaymak*

The revision of the primary school curriculum is one of the most significant changes the Justice and Development Party (AKP), has introduced in recent years within the Turkish education system. The need for change within the curriculum that is in line with contemporary national and international developments was highlighted in the party program before the AKP came to power in 2002 (AKP 2002, AKP 2001). The curriculum review process was initiated as early as 2004, during which the educational programs for five subjects were revised and new curricular documents were developed. The 2004 curriculum introduced substantial changes in the curriculum content, pedagogical approach, and assessment system (MoNE 2005). The content load was reduced, and a thematic approach was considered in the organization of content. It adopted a “competence-based” approach as opposed to the traditional knowledge-based (or subject-based) curriculum approach, and emphasized the development of select competencies and skills. In terms of pedagogical approach, it adopted student-centered pedagogy and encouraged student participation, classroom activities, the use of learning aids, hands-on learning, and cooperative learning. Student assessment was also revised in an attempt to move beyond testing. The new assessment system was framed as authentic assessment and aimed at evaluating students’ learning processes. The newly developed educational programs were piloted in 120 public schools across the country in the 2004–2005 academic year. The nationwide

## **You have reached the end of the preview for this book / chapter.**

You are viewing this book in preview mode, which allows selected pages to be viewed without a current Palgrave Connect subscription. Pages beyond this point are only available to subscribing institutions. If you would like access the full book for your institution please:

- Contact your librarian directly in order to request access, or;
- Use our Library Recommendation Form to recommend this book to your library  
(<http://www.palgraveconnect.com/pc/connect/info/recommend.html>),  
or;
- Use the 'Purchase' button above to buy a copy of the title from  
<http://www.palgrave.com> or an approved 3rd party.

If you believe you should have subscriber access to the full book please check you are accessing Palgrave Connect from within your institution's network, or you may need to login via our Institution / Athens Login page: (<http://www.palgraveconnect.com/pc/nams/svc/institutelogin?target=/index.html>).

## **Please respect intellectual property rights**

This material is copyright and its use is restricted by our standard site license terms and conditions (see [http://www.palgraveconnect.com/pc/connect/info/terms\\_conditions.html](http://www.palgraveconnect.com/pc/connect/info/terms_conditions.html)). If you plan to copy, distribute or share in any format including, for the avoidance of doubt, posting on websites, you need the express prior permission of Palgrave Macmillan. To request permission please contact [rights@palgrave.com](mailto:rights@palgrave.com).