

Gothenburg's 2020 School-Placement Algorithm — Straight-Line Distances, Nearly 1,000 Appeals and a Lawsuit Lost for Lack of Code Access

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Sweden

Quality score: 27/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

In 2020 Gothenburg placed just over 12,000 pupils with an algorithm that measured straight-line rather than walking distance; about 970 families appealed, an internal and an external review followed, and a parent's lawsuit failed.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	1/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	0/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	1/3
Scalability beyond pilot	1/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-10-28

[Göteborgs Stad \(Grundskoleförvaltningen\)](#) — accessed 2026-10-28

[University of Gothenburg — Algoritmer inför domstol](#) — accessed 2026-10-28

[SVT Väst — Skolvalshaveriet](#) — accessed 2026-10-28

[Göteborgs Stad — Extern granskning av skolval och skolplaceringar \(2020\)](#) — accessed 2026-10-28

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