



LANDRATSAMT
BODENSEEKREIS



English

Amt für Migration und Integration



My child

is going to

SCHOOL.





Dear Parents

The school system is different in every country. This leads to many questions about attending school, the role of parents and the educational offerings in your community or town.

There is a wide range of schools in the Bodenseekreis (Bodensee District). But which school is right for my child, and what do I have to consider as a parent?

The most important information has been brought together for you in this flyer so that you can better navigate the school choices in the Bodenseekreis.

I wish your child a good start to his or her school career and every success!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ignaz Wetzel". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ignaz Wetzel

Social Department

Department for Social Affairs, Young People, Health,
Employment and Migration

ABC



Grundschule (Primary School):

When does my child have to go to school?

Most children in Germany start school at **six years of age**. Some children start at five, and a very small number at seven. In Germany there is an **obligation to attend school**. That means that every child must go to school until he or she is 18 years old.



When and where do I have to register my child for primary school?

When your child has reached **school age (6 years old)**, register him or her at a primary school **near your home**. You can ask the staff at the kindergarten for advice to find the right primary school for your child. Or find out directly from the school in your neighbourhood or community. Take your child with you when you register him or her. Also take your child's identification documents with you.

What is a school entry medical examination (Einschulungsuntersuchung)?

Before your child can start Year 1 at the age of 6, he or she has to be examined at the **public health office (Gesundheitsamt)**.

This examination is important in order to detect at an early stage whether your child's **development is ready** for school. The school entry medical examination is **mandatory for every child in Germany** and is in the interests of the child's well-being.



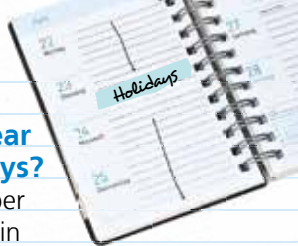
How long is a school day?

In Germany, children go to school from Monday to Friday. At the beginning of the school year, the children are given a timetable. A lesson lasts 45 minutes. The length of the school day depends on the type of school and your child's age. Generally, lessons at **primary school** take place **in the morning**.



If you want **additional childcare** before and after lessons there are appropriate offerings, such as **afternoon care**. In afternoon care, your child is usually given lunch and help with homework. Ask in your child's school about what is available.





How long does the school year last and when are the holidays?

Every school year starts in September and ends in August. A school year in Germany is split into two half years. After every half year, the teachers issue a half-yearly report with an assessment of performance.

In Baden-Württemberg pupils have the following school holidays:

- **Carnival holidays**
- **Easter holidays**
- **Whit holidays**
- **Summer holidays**
- **Autumn holidays**
- **Christmas holidays**

The exact holiday dates will be handed out by the school at the start of the school year.

In the school holidays, children don't go to school and don't have **any lessons**. In the summer holidays in particular, they can take part in a holiday programme. These holiday programmes are held at a school or somewhere else. You have to specifically register your child for them and pay for their attendance.

More information about what is available and the costs can be found at your child's school.

What does school cost?

Attending a **state school** in Germany is **free**.

Most schools in Germany are state schools.

However, there are private schools that charge fees.

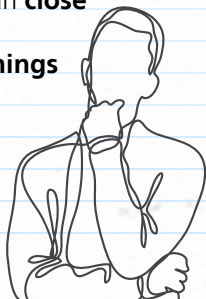
Nevertheless, **additional care and lunch** must be **paid for** even at state schools. The costs vary from school to school.



What is expected of parents?

In Germany: Parents and the school bear **joint responsibility** for nurturing and educating the child. Parents **actively** participate in school life and are in **close contact with the teachers**.

There are therefore regular **parents' evenings** and **individual parent meetings**.





At **parents' evenings, current issues** associated with lessons are discussed with all of the parents in a class, such as outings, class trips, acquisitions of school materials, as well the parents' and teachers' wishes.

At **parents' meetings**, parents can arrange an **individual appointment** with a teacher for a personal exchange.

Parents receive **parents' letters** from teachers and are thus kept informed of important dates and notifications. In turn, **parents are also required** to inform the school of important circumstances, for example if their child falls **ill** and cannot go to school.

My child doesn't speak German, or only very little German. Can he or she still go to school?

Yes, definitely. In the Bodensee District there are many **preparatory classes for children and young people** who have moved from abroad and don't speak **any German** or very little German. Children and young people learn to speak, read and write German here and can then move to a standard class.

What happens after primary school (Grundschule)?

Children attend **primary school** from **Year 1 to Year 4** (roughly from 6 to 10 years old). After primary school all of the children have to go to secondary school. The class teachers advise and inform the parents on the **secondary schools** and, together with the **half-year report in Year 4**, make a **recommendation for a secondary school**.

Parents are also informed about secondary schools at parents' evenings and can take part in parents' information days.



What types of secondary schools are there?

There are various kinds of secondary schools:

Hauptschule (Foundation secondary school) and **Werkrealschule (Foundation technical secondary school)**, **Realschule (Intermediate secondary school)**, **Gymnasium (Grammar school)** and **Gemeinschaftsschule (Comprehensive school)**.



Hauptschule and Werkrealschule (Foundation and Technical Secondary Schools):

The aim of the Hauptschule and Werkrealschule is **to foster practical talents** and to prepare the children for an **apprenticeship**.

The **Hauptschulabschluss (foundation school leaving qualification)** is acquired at the end of Year 9. The **mittlere Bildungsabschluss (Intermediate school leaving qualification)** is acquired at the end of Year 10.

Realschule (Intermediate Secondary School):

In the Realschule, pupils develop **practical skills**, but also learn to understand **theoretical connections**. The Realschule leads to a **general extended education** and simplifies the start of an apprenticeship.

The **Hauptschulabschlussprüfung (foundation secondary school leaving exam)** can be taken at the end of Year 9, the **Realschulabschluss (intermediate secondary school leaving exam)** at the end of Year 10.

Gymnasium (Grammar School):

At a Gymnasium, the pupils acquire a broad-based and in-depth **general education**. In particular, a Gymnasium prepares pupils for **studying at university**.

At a Gymnasium, pupils earn their **"Abitur" (higher level school leaving qualification for entering university) after Year 12 or 13**.

Gemeinschaftsschule (Comprehensive School):

At a Gemeinschaftsschule, children of **different abilities study together** in a single school. Here, the children have the opportunity to sit **any one of the school leaving exams** (foundation secondary school leaving qualification after Year 9, intermediate school leaving qualification after Year 10, higher level school leaving qualification after Year 12 or 13). All of the school leav-

ing qualifications are identical to the examinations of the other types of school. Comprehensive schools are well networked with other secondary schools. Thus, for example, after sitting the intermediate secondary school leaving exam at a comprehensive school, a pupil can sit an "Abitur" at a specialised grammar school. Furthermore, a comprehensive school is **always an all-day school**.

Sonderpädagogische Bildungs- und Beratungszentren/SBBZ (Education and consultation centres focusing on special needs):

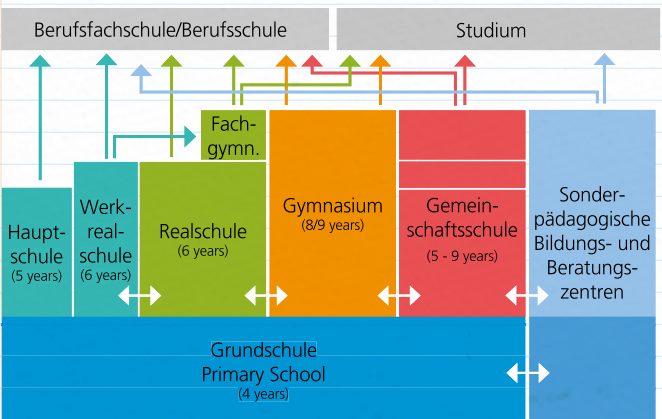
Does your child have special needs, which requires special education and assistance? There are special schools (SBBZ) for children who need special help with seeing, hearing, speaking, motivity, mental and social-emotional development. At the SBBZ, they can get special educational training.

Which secondary school is the right choice for my child?



Speak to your child's primary school teachers. They will **recommend** a secondary school. Ultimately, you as parents make the final decision as to which secondary school your child will attend after primary school.

Whichever choice you make: The decision does **not have to be final**. It is possible to **change** school types if your child develops differently. Also, **other routes** of secondary education are open to your child upon completion of one school type. For example, after completing an intermediate secondary school, pupils can attend a vocational grammar school and acquire their "Abitur".



Your contacts at Landratsamt Bodenseekreis

Christine Krämer

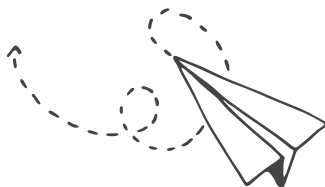
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Simone Schlachter

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This flyer is available in:

-  Arabic
-  German
-  English
-  Farsi
-  French
-  Italian
-  Romanian
-  Russian
-  Serbian
-  Spanish
-  Turkish





LANDRATSAMT
BODENSEEKREIS

Amt für Migration und Integration

More information about schools

State Education Authority Markdorf: School, Migration and Preparatory Classes

Staatliches Schulamt Markdorf
Am Stadtgraben 25
D-88677 Markdorf
Telephone: +49 (0) 7544 5097-0
E-mail: poststelle@ssa-mak.kv.bwl.de
www.schulamt-markdorf.de



Caritas Bodensee-Oberschwaben: Advice about Education and Families

Caritas Bodensee-Oberschwaben
Psychologische Familien- und Lebensberatung
Katharinenstr. 16
D-88045 Friedrichshafen
Telephone: +49 (0) 7541 30 00-0
E-mail:
pfl-fn@caritas-bodensee-oberschwaben.de
www.caritas-bodensee-oberschwaben.de



Youth Migration Service (JMD): Counselling and Support for Young People with a Migration Background, aged between 12 and 17.

CJD Bodensee-Oberschwaben
Konstantin-Schmäh-Straße 31
D-88045 Friedrichshafen
Telephone: +49 (0) 7541 2075-0
E-mail: info.friedrichshafen@cjd.de
www.cjd-bodensee-oberschwaben.de



**Bodensee District Administration Jobcenter:
Education and Participation Package**

Bodenseekreis Landratsamt Jobcenter

Albrechtstraße 75

D-88045 Friedrichshafen

Telephone: +49 (0) 7541 204-0

E-mail: jobcenter@bodenseekreis.de

www.bodenseekreis.de



More information

**An overview of schools in the Bodensee district can
be found here:**

www.schulliste.eu

School holiday dates can be found here:

www.schulferien.org

Transition from primary school to secondary school:

www.km-bw.de

Search for an all-day school:

www.ganztagsschulen.org

Contact in Bodenseekreis District Administration

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D-88045 Friedrichshafen

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