
Sekundarschule

In Sekundarschule, pupils with different knowledge and abilities can learn together for longer. Within the framework of their professional orientation, it prepares pupils for vocational training as well as for the transition to gymnasiale Oberstufe. From the beginning, the teaching also meets Gymnasium standards, and covers grades 5 to 10. Every Sekundarschule has a binding cooperation with at least one gymnasiale Oberstufe. Sekundarschulen usually operate as all-day schools.

Sonderpädagogische Förderung

Some pupils require special support due to a learning and development disorder or disability. These pupils are entitled to so-called „sonderpädagogische Unterstützung“. There are seven different „special educational“ support key areas:

- ▶ Learning
- ▶ Language
- ▶ Emotional and social development
- ▶ Sight
- ▶ Hearing and communication
- ▶ Mental development
- ▶ Physical and motor skills development.

General schools are the standard support locations for pupils with special educational support needs. However, parents also have the right to choose a Förderschule for their children.

Sekundarstufe II

The Sekundarstufe II continues and expands the education and upbringing work of Sekundarstufe I. It is split into a general education branch, the gymnasiale Oberstufe and a vocational training branch, the Berufskolleg.

Gymnasiale Oberstufe

Pupils continue their general school education in the gymnasiale Oberstufe. In North Rhine-Westphalia, upper secondary school can be attended at a Gymnasium, a Gesamtschule or a Berufliches Gymnasium. At the end of upper secondary school, the Allgemeine Hochschulreife (general university entrance qualification) is obtained by passing the Abiturprüfung (final secondary school examinations).

At a Berufskolleg, it is also possible to obtain a general university entrance qualification in conjunction with a vocational qualification. With an Abitur (university entrance qualification), one can register for degree programmes at universities of applied sciences or universities.

Berufskolleg

At a Berufskolleg, pupils can attend vocational training programmes that offer

- ▶ a professional orientation
- ▶ preparation for work or study
- ▶ a vocational qualification or
- ▶ further vocational training.

In parallel, all training programmes at vocational schools offer the possibility to obtain or catch up on general education secondary school qualifications up to the level of Abitur.

Weiterbildungskolleg

The Weiterbildungskolleg offers education to working people of different ages or to people with previous work experience. In the training programmes Abendrealschule, Abendgymnasium and Kolleg, all secondary school and upper secondary school qualifications can be obtained subsequently. A special offer is the „Abitur-Online“ training programme with lower attendance requirements at school.

More information:

You can obtain further information at schools, local education authorities and district councils, as well as on the Internet at: www.schulministerium.nrw
You can find the contact persons for your municipality here:
www.kommunale-integrationszentren-nrw.de



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The school system in North Rhine-Westphalia

Explained quickly and easily



Information and guidance

The school programme in North Rhine-Westphalia covers a broad spectrum. It offers all children and young people very good educational opportunities, according to their abilities and preferences. This flyer gives you an overview. You can obtain more detailed information at schools, local education authorities and district councils. People with a migrant background can also contact the municipal integration centres. The integration centres advise in particular on the transitions between the educational levels – from kindergarten to primary school, right through to the transition from school to work.

You can find the contact persons for your municipality here:

www.kommunale-integrationszentren-nrw.de

Comprehensive information about the school system in NRW is available at: www.schulministerium.nrw



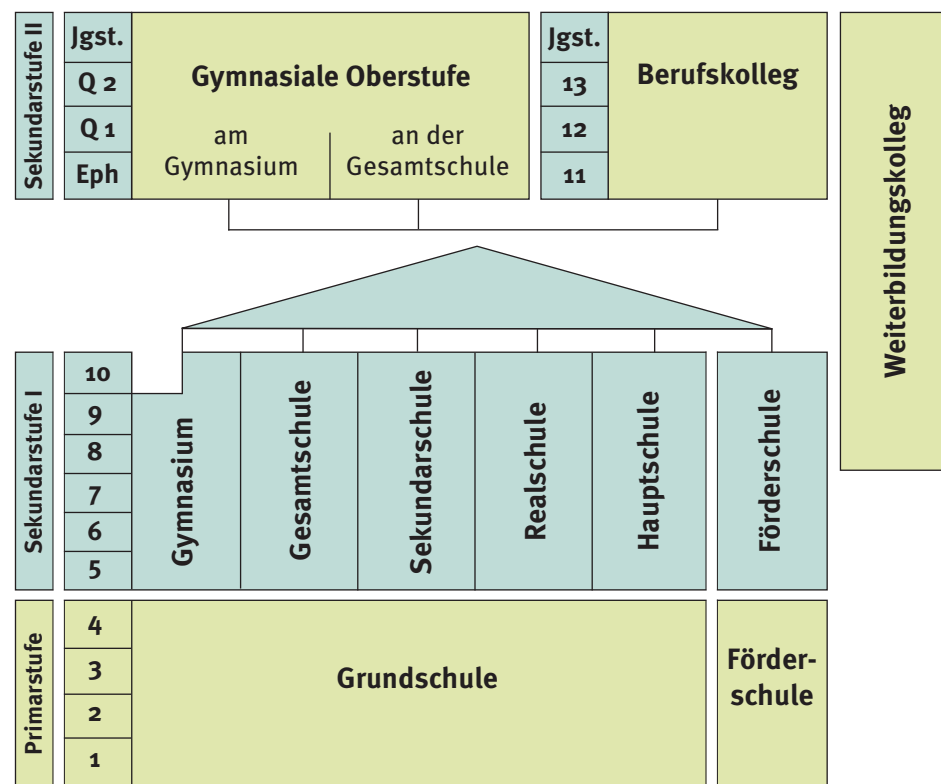
Compulsory school age

In NRW, the Education Act (Schulgesetz NRW-SchulG) stipulates compulsory schooling for children from the year in which they are six years old by 30 September. The new school year always starts in summer every year. Children and young people attend school for at least ten years. First, they go to primary school from the 1st to the 4th grade. Thereafter, they attend grades 5 to 10 at a secondary school. Until the end of the school year in which they turn 18, or until they successfully complete a full-time upper secondary school education programme, young people must either attend a vocational school or the gymnasiale Oberstufe. Anyone who starts a vocational training relationship before the age of 21 remains subject to compulsory schooling until this is completed.

Grundschule

A child's school education begins in Grundschule. It comprises grades 1 to 4. The children are individually supported from the very beginning, taking into account their personal requirements and interests. Basic knowledge, abilities, skills and values are taught.

School system in NRW



Sekundarstufe I

Sekundarstufe I builds on primary school. In North Rhine-Westphalia, the following school forms offer secondary education:

- ▶ **Hauptschule** (grades 5 to 10)
- ▶ **Realschule** (grades 5 to 10)
- ▶ **Gymnasium** (G8: grades 5 to 9, G9: grades 5 to 10)
- ▶ **Gesamtschule** (grades 5 to 10)
- ▶ **Sekundarschule** (grades 5 to 10).

Hauptschule

The Hauptschule provides pupils with a basic general education. The teaching is highly practice-orientated. The pupils receive intensive support at an early stage with their professional orientation, career choice and start of vocational training. Regular internships at companies enable pupils to gain insight into the world of work. The business and world of work learning area prepares pupils for work-related life situations, and makes the living environment – insofar as it is characterised by work – tangible and transparent to them.

Realschule

The Realschule provides pupils with an extended general education. In the lessons, practical and theoretical abilities and skills are promoted on an equal basis. Accordingly, the teaching is practice orientated, but also offers scientific perspectives. Work-orientated competencies acquired and the subject of economics enable pupils to continue their educational path after completing the tenth grade, either in a vocational training programme or at the Sekundarstufe II in the gymnasiale Oberstufe.

Gymnasium

The Gymnasium provides a more in-depth general education. Pupils acquire knowledge and skills that are a prerequisite for university studies or highly demanding vocational training. In a continuous education programme, it comprises both Sekundarstufe I (G8: grades 5 to 9, G9: grades 5 to 10) and the subsequent three-year Sekundarstufe II with gymnasiale Oberstufe.

Gesamtschule

With a differentiated teaching system, the Gesamtschule prepares for vocational training and for studying at a university. There, pupils with different learning abilities can learn together. The pupils are not assigned to specific training programmes as at a Hauptschule, Realschule or Gymnasium. In order to accommodate the different knowledge and skills of the pupils, teaching is offered at two levels (basic level and extended level) in some subjects. The Gesamtschule comprises both Sekundarstufe I (grades 5 to 10) and the subsequent three-year Sekundarstufe II with gymnasiale Oberstufe. Gesamtschulen usually operate as all-day schools.