



THE SCHOOL SYSTEM IN RHINELAND- PALATINATE IN SIMPLE TERMS

Information for newly immigrated families – available in 22 languages



Englisch





SCHOOL IN RHINELAND- PALATINATE

In Rhineland-Palatinate, all children must attend school (compulsory education). All children who turn six by 31 August in the year of enrolment are obliged to attend school.

There are two types of schools. Initially, all children go to **primary school** from the 1st to the 4th grade. Then they attend a **secondary school** from grade 5 to at least grade 9. Afterwards, they can attend a **vocational school**, a **technical school** or a **grammar school**.

If you and your family come from abroad and move to Rhineland-Palatinate, the schools will advise you on which type of school is suitable for your child. Please bring your school reports with you to this counselling appointment.

Language support



In class, children and young people speak German, as do teachers. In order for children with other mother tongues to learn German quickly, there are

DaZ courses at the schools (DaZ = Deutsch als Zweitsprache – German as a second language). Children and young people who speak and understand little or no German learn German here for up to 20 hours a week. In the remaining hours, they take part in the lessons in their class.

Many schools use the 2P programme. This enables them to determine what the newly immigrated pupils are already able to do.



The primary school (Grundschule)

Primary school pupils attend the school that is responsible for their place of residence. In primary school, children learn, among other things, the elementary basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic.

In the fourth school year, the children receive a recommendation for further school attendance. However, the decision about further school attendance is up to the parents. The schools advise the parents.

Secondary schools



There are three types of secondary schools in Rhineland-Palatinate: **the Realschule plus** [secondary school], the **Integrierte Gesamtschule**

(IGS) [integrated comprehensive school] and the **Gymnasium** [grammar school].

It is possible to switch between the two types of school and this can be useful if the lessons are too difficult or too easy for the child.

The Realschule plus

At the Realschule plus, pupils can find out early on which professions they are interested in (career orientation). After the 9th grade, students can graduate with a vocational maturity certificate (Hauptschulabschluss). After the 10th grade, pupils can obtain the Qualified Secondary Certificate (Mittlere Reife). After this, pupils can learn a profession. After successfully completing the 10th grade with a certain grade point average, pupils can also attend a Fachoberschule (FOS)

[technical school], Berufsbildende Schule (BBS) [vocational school] or the gymnasiale Oberstufe [grammar school].

The Fachoberschule (FOS) [technical school]

Combination of teaching and vocational practice

At some Realschule plus' there is also a Fachoberschule (FOS). Here, lessons and vocational

practice are combined in grades 11 and 12. There are different specialisations, for instance economics and administration, technology or health and social work.

After graduating from a Fachoberschule, students can study at a Fachhochschule [technical university] or begin vocational training.

The Integrated Comprehensive School (Integrierte Gesamtschule, IGS)

All school-leaving qualifications can be obtained at an integrated comprehensive school (IGS). After the 9th grade, the vocational qualification,



after the 10th grade the qualified secondary qualification, after the 12th grade the academic part of the advanced technical college qualification or after the 13th grade the general advanced technical college qualification (Abitur). The decision about the school-leaving certificate remains open for a long time at an IGS.

At the IGS, pupils are taught together in some subjects and in other subjects in courses with different levels of achievement.

The Gymnasium

At the Gymnasium, pupils acquire in-depth skills and competences from the very beginning, so that they can later study at university or start vocational training. In Rhineland-Palatinate, most pupils attend the Gymnasium for 9 years (G9). At several Gymnasiums, the Abitur examinations can be taken after only 8 years (G8GTS).

In the first years at the Gymnasium, pupils are taught in classes. In the last three years, they can choose certain specialisations and attend the course system of the gymnasiale Oberstufe with the aim of obtaining the Allgemeine Hochschulreife (Abitur).

The Berufsbildende Schule (BBS)

Berufsbildende Schulen (BBS) offer many opportunities for vocational training and school-leaving qualifications.

If young people have already been at school for nine years and have not yet been able to obtain a school-leaving certificate, they can take a vocational preparation year (BVJ) to obtain their vocational maturity certificate. By attending the vocational school and subsequently being admitted to vocational college, students with the vocational maturity certificate can obtain the Qualified Secondary Certificate in two years. If they meet the necessary requirements, they can also go on to obtain the advanced technical

college entrance qualification or the Abitur at vocational secondary schools. Schools advise pupils on which path is suitable.

If an apprenticeship is undertaken, the vocational school must be attended.

Graduation through training



There are more than 300 apprenticeship occupations. Students spend two to three and a half years learning in a company and at a vocational school.

This **dual training** is a special feature of the German school system. It is also possible to obtain a vocational qualification or, under certain conditions, even a qualified secondary school leaving certificate. In order to start vocational training, you do not necessarily need to have completed the vocational maturity certification.





Pupils with special educational needs

Pupils who require special educational support may be identified as having special educational needs. The parents of these pupils can choose between a school with inclusive provision or a special school. At special schools and schools with inclusive education, the same qualifications as at the Realschule plus or special school-leaving qualifications (special form of vocational maturity, school-leaving qualification in the special focus area of holistic development) can be achieved.

Further information on all types of schools can be found at: <https://bildung-rp.de/schularten.html>

This flyer is available for download in the languages:

- Deutsch
- العربية (Arabisch)
- Bosanski (Bosnisch)
- Български (Bulgarisch)
- 中文 (Chinesisch)
- فارسی دری (Dari)
- English (Englisch)
- Français (Französisch)
- Ελληνικά (Griechisch)
- Italiano (Italienisch)
- Hrvatski (Kroatisch)
- پښتو (Paschtu)
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