



How do the schools function in the canton of Basel-Stadt?

Basel-Stadt has gradually reorganised its schools over the past few years. The new system is described below.

Compulsory schooling lasts for eleven years (Kindergarten included). Children who cannot or barely speak German must attend a facility on two half days per week where they can **learn German** in a playful manner. This duty to promote German applies to the year preceding entry into kindergarten.

Compulsory schooling begins with **Kindergarten** when children are four years old. Between now and 2016, the cut-off birth date for children entering Kindergarten in August will be extended to 31 July (see dates on the website www.volksschulen.bs.ch → Schulsystem → Kindergarten). Kindergarten lasts for two years and is located in the neighbourhood where the child lives. Class size is limited to a maximum of 20 children. The school year begins in August; the application form for Kindergarten will be sent to the parents in December by post.

Following Kindergarten, children attend **Primarschule** (Primary School). Primary School lasts for six years and is located in the neighbourhood where the child lives. French lessons start in the 3rd class and English lessons begin in the 5th class. Maximum class size is 25 children.

After primary school, children attend **Sekundarschule** (Secondary School). This lasts for three years. According to their achievement at school, children are assigned to different levels (achievement levels/Leistungszüge). They attend either A-level (A-Zug; standard level), E-level (E-Zug; enhanced level) or P-level (P-Zug; advanced level). There are Secondary Schools in ten places located throughout the city of Basel. Pupils change levels if their performance changes significantly. The A-Zug classes are composed of a maximum of 16 pupils. A maximum of 23 pupils per class attend the E-Zug, and 25 pupils the P-Zug classes. At the end of the 11th school year all pupils receive a certificate of completing Secondary School (report of achievement).

Detailed information about schools in Basel-Stadt can be obtained during the **Information Evenings for Parents** to which parents are invited by the school every year. These information evenings are addressed to parents of children who will start Kindergarten or a new school in summer. Many of these informative meetings offer information in English as well.

Further information about schools in Basel-Stadt is available from

- the Department of Education's website www.ed.bs.ch
- the secretariat of the Volksschulen am Kohlenberg 27, Postfach, 4001 Basel, 061 267 54 60, volksschulen@bs.ch
- the individual schools.

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From Kindergarten on there are **learning progress reports** as well as **progress talks**. Starting with the first year of Primary School there are **school reports** and from the fifth year on there are **grades**. Each class of the **Volksschule** has two parental delegates, and every school has a school council with two parental representatives.

Kindergarten, Primary School and Secondary School offer **Tagesstrukturen** (school day care possibilities) beyond the lessons: Parents can pay to enrol their children in Schulen mit Tagesstrukturen (all day schools), Mittagstische (lunch-tables), Tagesheime (day-care centers) and Tagesfamilien (day-care families), where the children are taken care of, fed and supported. During school holidays, Tagesferien (day care during school holidays) is available. All schools apply Blockzeiten (block times): Children are at school from Monday to Friday from 8 to 12 a.m. as well as one afternoon (Kindergarten) or several afternoons (starting in Primary School) a week.





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Informationen in den Sprachen
Deutsch, Français, Italiano, English,
Español, Shqip, Srpski hrvatski, Tamil,
Türkçe: www.ed.bs.ch → welcome

The 11 years of compulsory schooling ends with the completion of Secondary School. Thereafter, youngsters, according to their achievement at school, have the following options:

- They attend a Berufslehre (occupational apprenticeship). Passing a professional maturity exam during or after their apprenticeship gives them the possibility of studying at an advanced technical college.
- They continue going to school, attending a full-time vocational school or the Fachmaturitätsschule.
- They attend Gymnasium (High School). High school ends with the maturity exam and the option to study at a university.
- They attend a bridge-year course if they have not found any other alternative.

Wherever possible, children and young people with disabilities are taught in regular classes and receive extra individual support. There are special state and private schools available as well.

Die Schullaufbahnen auf einen Blick

