



## Information for newcomers on the Bavarian school system (english)

- **School attendance** is **compulsory** in Germany. This means that your child must attend school. When your child is almost 6 years old, he or she will attend the first grade.
- For the first 4 years, all children in Bavaria attend a **primary school**. In primary school your child learns reading and arithmetic, among other things.
- After the 4<sup>th</sup> grade the primary school ends. But compulsory education is not over yet! Your child continues to go to school. After primary school, your child attends a **secondary school**.
- There are different types of secondary schools: there is the **(Mittelschule) general, vocationally oriented secondary school for non-university bound pupils**, the **(Realschule) professionally oriented secondary school** and the **(Gymnasium) university-preparatory secondary school**. There are also **special schools** for children with special needs and **private schools**.  
Here you can find an overview of all schools in the Mühldorf a. Inn district: [www.lra-mue.de/wirtschaft-kultur-bildung/bildung-im-landkreis/bildungseinrichtungen](http://www.lra-mue.de/wirtschaft-kultur-bildung/bildung-im-landkreis/bildungseinrichtungen)
- You can find out which type of school your child will attend after the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, by looking at your child's **(Übertrittszeugnis) school certificate documenting the average school grade of the main subjects**. Your child will receive such a certificate at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. An assessment will be written by your child's teacher and indicate the type of school your child is best suited for.
- If you are new to Germany and are not sure which secondary school is suitable for your child, you can get information and advice from a school near you or from the following agencies:
  - Education authority for primary schools and general secondary schools in Mühldorf a. Inn: <https://schulamt.lra-mue.de>
  - Integration facilitators from the Mühldorf a. Inn district: [www.lra-mue.de/integrationslotsen](http://www.lra-mue.de/integrationslotsen)
- At every secondary school your child has the opportunity to learn German!
- You can also change within the school types. For example, if your child attends a Mittelschule, he or she can transfer to the Realschule if he or she performs well.
- The secondary schools all end with a **school-leaving qualification**. The Mittelschule can usually be attended up to the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade and the Realschule ends after the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. The Gymnasium, however, ends after the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> grade. With every qualification achieved, the path is open for an apprenticeship or further qualification.



- **Does your child want to continue going to school?** Where your child can continue to go to school depends on which secondary school he or she attends.
  - If your child attends a Mittelschule or Realschule, he or she can either change to another secondary school (Realschule or Gymnasium) or go to a vocational school (technical college, technical academy, or technical school).
  - If your child attends the Gymnasium, he or she can either stay there and finish the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> grade or change to another type of school beforehand.
- **Your child would like to get an education and then work?** In principle, it is possible to start an apprenticeship after all types of school. If your child leaves school after at least 9 years, he or she can start either a dual vocational training or a school-based education. During this time, your child will be trained and equipped with the skills for a specific occupation.
  - In a **dual vocational training (combined work and study)**, your child works in a company that takes on trainees and also attends a vocational school. In some lines of work, they will regularly attend vocational school on certain days, and in others they will always be at school for a few weeks at a time and the rest of the time in the company where they are being trained. At the end of the apprenticeship (depending on the type of training, usually after 2-3,5 years) your child will receive a state-recognized vocational qualification.
  - In the case of **school-based education**, your child attends a vocational school (for example, a full-time vocational school or a technical academy) and is taught there full-time. After completion of school-based education (usually after 1-3,5 years, depending on the type of training) they will also receive a state-recognized vocational qualification.
- **Your child wants to study?** In order to be able to start studying, your child must have a subject-specific higher education qualification or general higher education qualification. Your child can usually obtain this qualification after the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> grade, for example at a technical college or university-preparatory secondary school (Gymnasium).
- If your child leaves school without a school-leaving qualification and has not secured a training position, and has not completed compulsory education for 12 years, your child must register at the **vocational school** where you live. There they can continue to go to school and obtain a school-leaving qualification. In this case, your child can also attend a vocational preparation course. The attendance is regulated by the employment agency.