



Many Paths to Success

Saxony's School System



Everyone Counts!

Opportunities Abound for Everyone at Saxony's Schools

Dear students, parents, and readers,

Success can be achieved in numerous ways. This naturally applies to Saxony's education system as well. Each individual needs to decide for themselves how to define their respective goals and success. In order to make the right decision, it is important to be aware of the various options available.

This brochure provides answers and information about educational opportunities in Saxony. Our educational environment is as diverse as the educational needs it must meet, and extends from elementary and high schools through to vocational schools and adult education, where adults of any age can acquire general high school diplomas. In addition, there are special needs schools that offer custom support to students with disabilities so that they can lead an independent life as much as possible in our society.

"Everyone counts!" is the motto of Saxony's education policy. Our structured school system takes into account the various predispositions, talents and educational goals of the students. This also makes individual entry into Saxony's school system possible for students who have grown up bilingual or multilingual.

"Everyone counts!" – This is a commitment local schools are going all out to live up to: new streamlined curricula relieve teachers, giving them more freedom to attend to the individual development of each student. In this way, schools have more practical options for action and heightened individual responsibility.

The continual improvement of teaching quality is an important issue that schools are working on together with the Ministry of Education, often with external support.

Dear readers,

Saxony's school system gives everyone a chance – and some even two! The socially equitable distribution of educational opportunities in Saxony was just recently confirmed yet again by the education monitor. In its diversity, our school system delivers what it promises by paving many different paths to a good education and success. The fact that there are only a handful of academically weak students in Saxony can be accredited to the good work of our high schools.

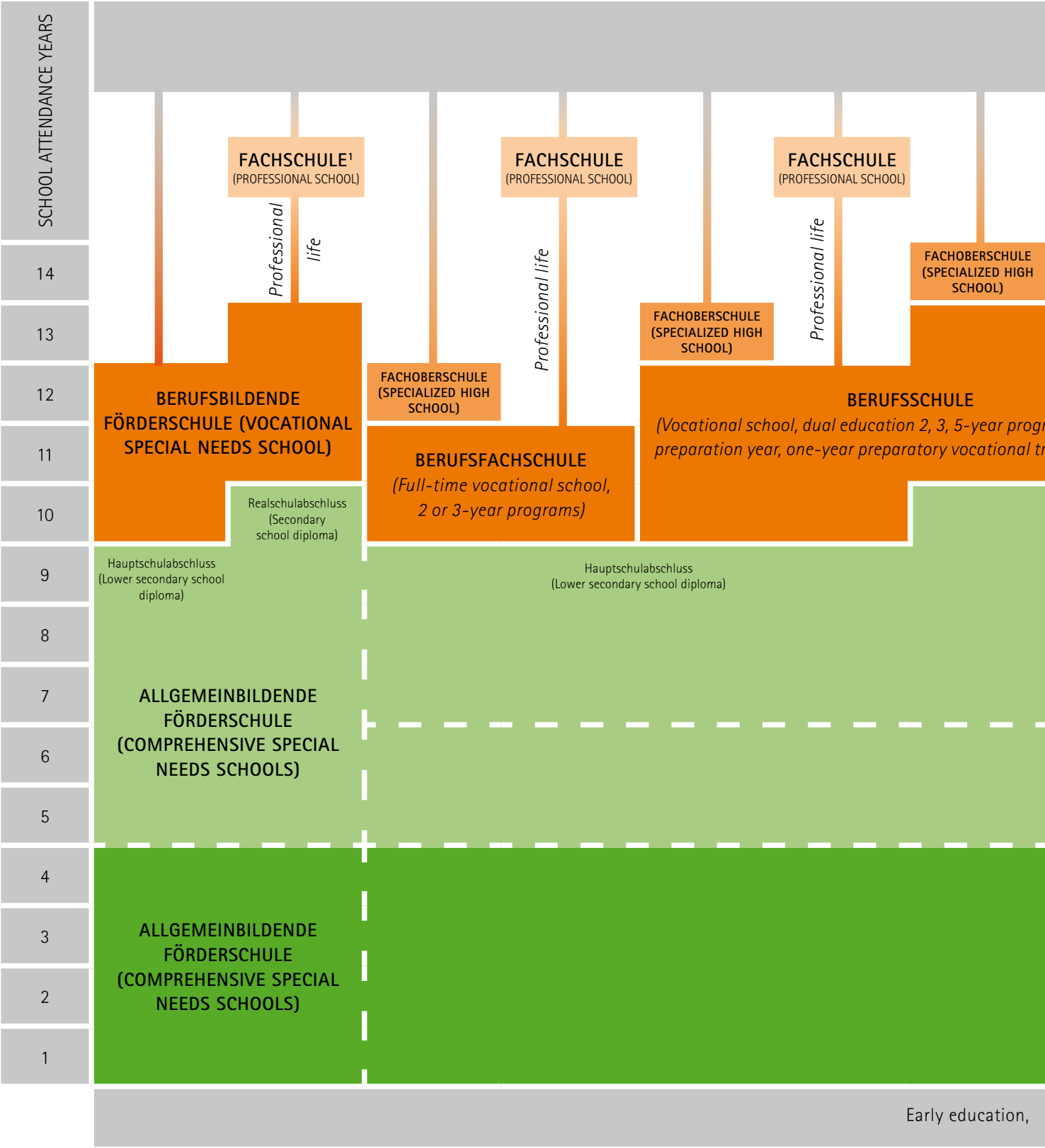
Whatever educational path is to be pursued, I hope that this brochure offers you interesting insights and helps you make the right decisions regarding your own education or that of your children.

Brunhild Kurth
Saxon State Minister for Education



Saxony's School System

(simplified depiction, without adult education)



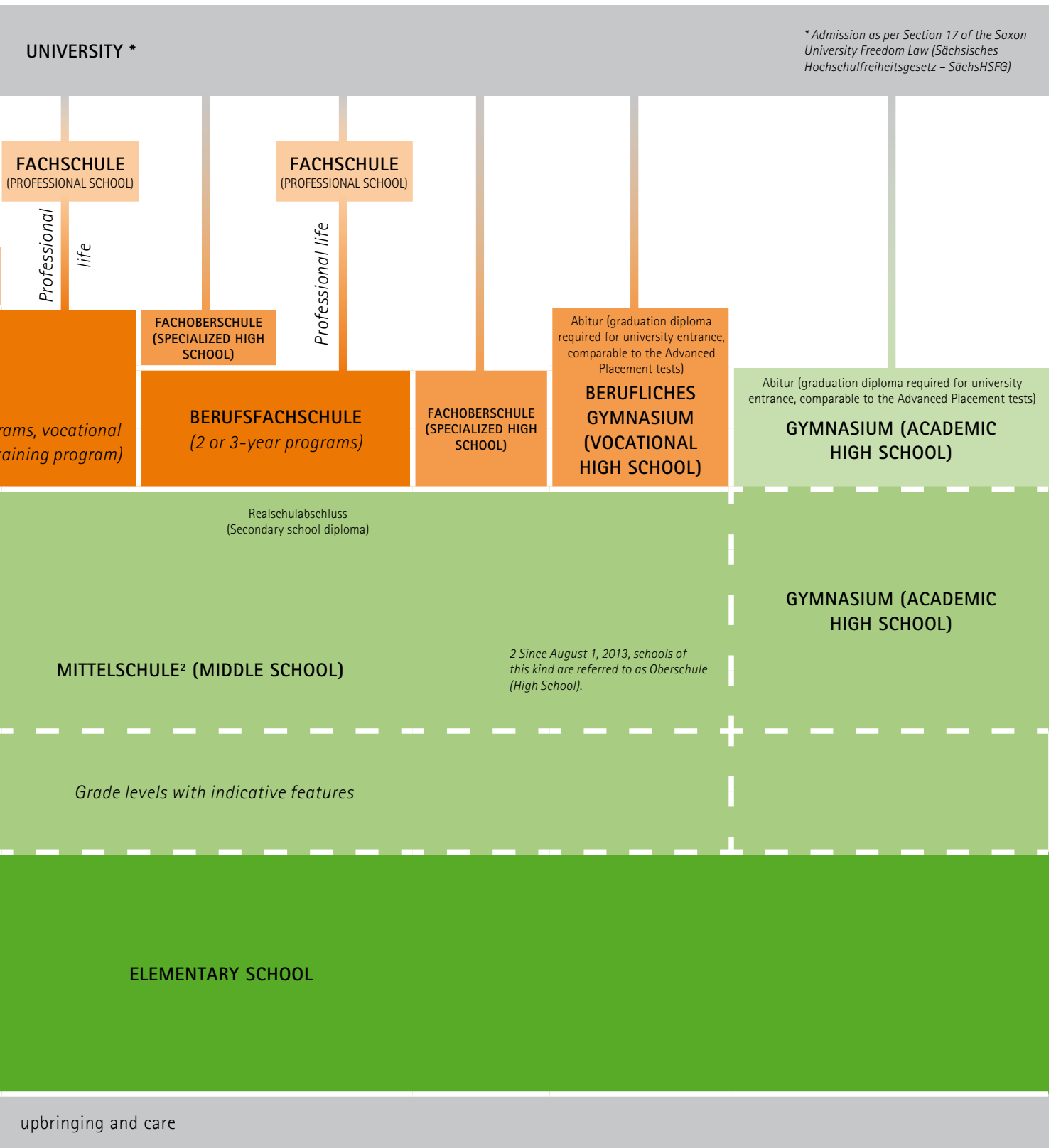
¹ Dependent on the vocational qualification attained (recognized vocational discipline)

General Education School

- Primary education
- Secondary education I
- Secondary education II

Vocational Training Schools

- Initial vocational training
- Study qualification
- Professional development





© pressmaster | fotolia.com

WIR BEWEGEN
BILDUNG
BEWEGT UNS

Opportunities for Everyone.

Education in Saxony



The Saxon school system gives everyone a chance, and some even two. Students* possess a variety of skills and interests, which is why Saxony's schools offer a number of different paths to success. The wide selection of educational opportunities takes into account the personal development of each student and creates the basis for lifetime learning. To get our bearings in an increasingly complex and rapidly changing world, we need to have a diversified set of skills that we can combine with specialized knowledge.

In this brochure, we provide you with an introduction to the different types of schools and educational options available in Saxony. A brief overview is followed by detailed chapters of each type of school. The first part of the booklet provides information on the various approaches, goals and subjects at general education schools (elementary and high schools, comprehensive schools and special needs schools). The second part covers vocational schools that open up other pathways, particularly for high school graduates.

You will not only learn the theoretical fundamentals for your future profession, but you will also have the opportunity to acquire Fachhochschulreife (university of applied science entrance qualification) or the Abitur (university entrance qualification). A separate chapter covers special needs schools, where students with disabilities or developmental disorders receive the specialized assistance they need.

Schools compete globally in terms of quality and performance. Saxony's schools are rising to this challenge by offering diverse educational opportunities with projects, participation in competitions or special profiles that make each school unique. The school profiles available online are a great way to discover the diversity on offer:

www.bildung.sachsen.de

For more information, the following brochures are available in German:



Ein guter Start
Grundschulen in Sachsen



Fit für die Zukunft
Oberschulen und Gymnasien
in Sachsen



Vielfalt als Chance
Sonderpädagogische Förderung
in Sachsen



Wege zum Beruf
Berufsbildende Schulen in Sachsen

There are 1,753 general, adult and vocational schools with 439,000 students and 34,400 teachers in Saxony.

Many Paths to Success.

An Overview of Saxony's School System

Grundschule (Elementary School) p. 10

Grades 1–4

During the first four years of school, children learn much more than just reading, writing and arithmetic. Experienced elementary school teachers follow the children's individual learning development closely and nurture their love for learning and acquiring knowledge. All children receive a recommendation for either Oberschule or Gymnasium (which is more academic) in fourth grade.



Ein guter Start
Grundschulen in Sachsen



Oberschule (High School) p. 12

Grades 5–9/10

High schools provide a general and vocational preparatory education with many opportunities for students to be supported in honing their individual performance and developing specific interests. This lays the foundation for further professional training. At the end of ninth grade, students can obtain either a Hauptschulabschluss (lower secondary school diploma) or a qualifizierter Hauptschulabschluss (qualified lower secondary school diploma). At the end of 10th grade, the students are able to receive their Realschulabschluss (high school diploma).

Gymnasium (Academic High School) p. 14

Grades 5–12

At a Gymnasium, students can obtain their Abitur (university entrance certificate) after eight years. Grades 5 and 6 serve as an orientation period so that students are not committed to one type of school so early. A switch to Gymnasium from high school is still possible after grades 7–9. In grades 8 to 10, Gymnasium offers various specializations called profiles.



Fit für die Zukunft
Oberschulen und Gymnasien
in Sachsen



Förderschulen (Special Needs Schools) p. 16

Grades 1–9/10

Eight different types of special needs schools help children and youth attain the highest levels of independence possible in their private and professional lives. These schools accept students with learning difficulties or physical disabilities that regular schools are not adequately equipped to handle.



Vielfalt als Chance
Sonderpädagogische
Förderung in Sachsen



Berufsbildende Schulen (Vocational Schools)

In Saxony, the vocational schools such as the Berufsschule (vocational school), Berufsfachschule (full-time vocational school), Fachoberschule (specialized high

school), Berufliches Gymnasium (vocational high school) and Fachschule (professional school) are usually integrated into vocational training centers. Young people with disabilities are generally integrated into the vocational training

curriculum or study at berufsbildenden Förderschulen (vocational special needs schools). The diploma they receive is the equivalent to the diploma awarded by other vocational schools.



Wege zum Beruf

Berufsbildende Schulen in Sachsen

Berufsschule (Vocational School) p. 18

Dual Education System

Vocational schools are part of the dual training system. Students acquire the theoretical foundations for their future profession directly in a company with an education in one of the more than 350 recognized occupations. The Berufsschule also provides a special curriculum for disabled and disadvantaged youth.

Fachoberschule (Specialized High School) p. 22

The Path to a Fachhochschule (University of Applied Science)

At the Fachoberschule (specialized high school), young people and adults are able to obtain the Fachhochschulreife (university of applied science entrance qualification), which entitles them to study at a Fachhochschule. For students with a Realschulabschluss (high school diploma), qualification takes two years and one year for students who have completed a Berufsausbildung (professional education).

Berufsfachschule (Full-time Vocational School) p. 20

Vocational Training at School

Full-time classes at a vocational school are the way to receive a Berufsabschluss (vocational school diploma) that is recognized throughout Germany. The training lasts two to three years.

Berufliches Gymnasium (Vocational High School) p. 23

Abitur after High School

This path to the Abitur and studying at a university is suited to all those who have a good Realschulabschluss (high school diploma). The three-year curriculum includes general and vocational training.

Fachschule (Professional School) p. 21

Continuing Professional Education

Skilled workers with professional education and work experience can receive additional qualifications at a Fachschule (professional school). Graduates are qualified for many interesting mid-level jobs between

skilled workers/ employees and university graduates. Successful completion of the Fachschule qualifies students for a university education.



Grundschule (Elementary School).

Getting off to a Good Start



At the Grundschule (elementary school), children learn much more than just reading, writing and arithmetic. The joy children experience while acquiring knowledge and their natural curiosity should be encouraged and they must learn to take pride in their skills. The first four years of school lay the foundation for children's ability to work independently and should motivate children to pursue lifelong learning. For this reason, the Grundschule is both achievement and child-oriented. Children want to show what they are capable of, be encouraged and stimulated. They also want to be regarded as individuals.

From Kindergarten to School

The preschool year in kindergarten and grade 1 form one unit. Kindertartens and elementary schools work closely together at this stage to ensure every child becomes acclimated to his or her new surroundings. After-school care (Hort) for children of elementary school age is also available. Parents enter into a service agreement with the after-school care providers. Close cooperation between the Grundschule and after-school care ensures that the children's educational needs are attended to all day.

Emphasis on the Child

The lessons in the first two years of school build on the children's individual knowledge and personal experiences. The primary focus is on capturing the essence of things. Since children must first learn how to learn, exercises requiring concentration are mixed with relaxation periods. Grades 3 and 4 then prepare the children for the Oberschule and Gymnasium. In interdisciplinary projects, the children have more and more opportunities to independently

apply what they have learned to master complex situations in an integrated fashion.

Look at What I Can Do!

Reading and Writing

Good language skills are the best guarantor of success, and promoting them should begin at a very early age. Reading and writing skills are closely linked at school. From the beginning, children write short texts and poems and get acquainted with children's literature.

General Education

The world, the coexistence of people and how to interact with plants and animals, age-appropriate discovery and experience of phenomena like light and air, health, media, and transportation are at the center of this subject and are combined with German in one subject block. In this way, the learning material can be presented in a comprehensive fashion, and the children learn to link new knowledge with what they already know. Experiments, field trips and learning sites thereby turn into long-lasting educational experiences.

Math

Active learning while making discoveries, illustrative examples and subjects from real life make it easy for children to recognize mathematical relationships and to practice using them. Children are given special encouragement to find their own ways of arriving at solutions.

Foreign Languages

Starting in grade 3, all children have two English lessons per week. Some schools already begin offering a different foreign language in grade 1.

Religion/Ethics

Starting in grade 1, all children are offered either Protestant or Catholic religion instruction. Those who do not partake in religion classes attend the ethics class.

Recognizing Achievements

The first two years at school form a single unit. Every child can become familiar with their own learning pace and abilities and there is no decision to be made whether the student will be promoted to the next class. Grades are gradually introduced starting in grade 2. This allows teachers to track learning progress and provide children with targeted support. However, the children also want to know where they stand: grades acknowledge their performance and serve to encourage and motivate them. In addition to academic performance, behavior, orderliness, diligence and cooperation are also evaluated. This way, both the children and their parents know whether the student is punctual, follows certain rules and participates in class, as well as how goal-oriented and precise the student's work already is.

Communication between the School and the Parents

It is important for parents and teachers to communicate directly with one another about the development of the child in order to maintain a good relationship between the school and the parents. Parent-teacher conferences provide an opportunity to jointly agree on classes, class projects and educational issues. Teachers are available to answer any individual questions that the parents may have. In addition, parents elect a parent representative to support the interests of the children and parents at school committees.



What's next?

The transition to high school or Gymnasium is accompanied by school counseling services. The child's stage of development and his or her potential, as well as the parents' wishes are discussed in consultations with the parents. At the beginning of the second half of grade 4, all students receive a recommendation from the elementary school regarding their further education.



Tips and Information

For detailed information about elementary schools in Saxony, the following brochure is available in German:



Ein guter Start
Grundschulen in Sachsen

Oberschule (High School).

Education for Practical Use



Oberschule (high school) students have many options. The Oberschule offers both general education and preparation for future professional life. When selecting the appropriate school, parents and children should read up in advance on the respective school programs, the elective courses and special offers.

Diplomas

The educational choices at the Oberschule are tailored to the interests of the students by offering a wide variety of elective courses. By providing individual support, the high school can benefit the students' performance capacities. The following high school diplomas can be obtained:

- Hauptschulabschluss or qualifizierter Hauptschulabschluss: lower secondary school diploma or qualified lower secondary school diploma after ninth grade
- Realschulabschluss: high school diploma after tenth grade

Orientation

Grades 5 and 6

In these grades, students are familiarized with new requirements. They are introduced to new subjects, practice new learning methods and test their performance. They become more independent and receive targeted support based on their individual abilities. Particularly motivated students benefit from selectable performance groups that prepare and simplify the possible transfer to the Gymnasium. In grade 6, the decision concerning which course of education will be made (Hauptschulabschluss or Realschulabschluss), and which elective courses each student will attend as of grade 7.

Individual Support

Grades 7 to 9/10

Starting in grade 7, students prepare for the Hauptschulabschluss or Realschulabschluss depending on their individual performance capabilities. The same subjects are taught in both courses of education, whereas instruction in German, math, foreign languages, physics and chemistry is held in Hauptschule or Realschule groups or classes. Depending on performance, students may switch between the courses of education. Performance-based courses are taken from grade 7 on to pave the way to the Berufliches Gymnasium (vocational high school) or Fachoberschule (specialized high school).

Preparation for Future Professional Life

A systematic and practical orientation toward vocational training or higher education is the special feature of the Oberschule. Working together with career counselors from the Federal Employment Agency is very important here. The collective goal is for all students to display the ability to choose a career. Building on the strengths and weaknesses determined in grade 7, vocational training or higher education is customized for each student. In the subject of economics, technology and social affairs (WTH), students receive basic education in applied economics starting in grade 7. The objective is to assist all students with the selection of the career they wish to pursue. Obligatory subject areas coupled with mandatory internships and project work in cooperation with companies provide numerous opportunities for career orientation.

Foreign Languages

The primary focus is on learning English, which starts in the Grundschule and continues until the completion of Oberschule. The Oberschule offers several options for learning a second

foreign language: either certificate-oriented education from grade 6 (usually French), or elective courses lasting one or two years starting in grade 7. Additionally, study groups for Czech, Polish, Spanish or Russian are also available.

Obligatory Electives

Elective Courses

In grades 7-9, students may select elective courses from seven subject areas depending on their own interests and the course offered by the school:

- Natural science and technology
- Arts and culture
- Social issues and social action
- Language and communication
- Health and physical education
- Computer science and media
- Business

Alternatively, a second foreign language with certification can be learned starting in grade 6 until grade 10.

Advanced Courses

In grade 10, students can select advanced courses in economics, technology or health and social affairs. This way, one of the three WTH subject areas is continued in depth. At some Oberschulen, advanced courses in art and culture are offered to promote artistic talent and provide orientation for occupations that focus on art and design.



© Frank Grätz, Dresden

What's next?

Vocational training can begin after completing school. With a good Realschulabschluss (high school diploma), students can continue their education at the Berufliches Gymnasium (vocational high school) to receive a higher education entrance qualification (Abitur) or at the Fachoberschule (specialized high school) with the goal of attaining Fachhochschulreife (university of applied science entrance qualification). Approximately one-third of the Oberschule graduates with a Realschulabschluss choose such a path. In principle, it is possible to transfer from Oberschule to the Gymnasium after each grade provided that the academic performance is sufficient. More detailed information on vocational education can be found starting on page 18, or in the German-language brochure, "Wege zum Beruf".



© Drobuz | istockphoto.com

Tips and Information

For detailed information about Oberschule and Gymnasium schools in Saxony, the following brochure is available in German:



Fit für die Zukunft

Oberschulen und Gymnasien in Sachsen

Gymnasium (Academic High School).

Preparing for Higher Education

The eight years of schooling at Gymnasium are designed to provide targeted support for especially skilled students and prepare them for university. Those who would like to attend Gymnasium therefore need a pertinent education recommendation from their elementary or high school, or need to pass an aptitude test. Individual Gymnasium schools have different specializations. Some students focus on natural sciences and social studies, whereas others may excel in art, languages and sports. Special educational priorities are set according to the respective profiles. When selecting a school, it is important to remember that not every Gymnasium offers all profiles.

Particularly gifted students have the opportunity to attend special Gymnasium schools with advanced education starting in grade 5. For students who are gifted in several areas (intellectual giftedness), the Landesgymnasium Sankt Afra zu Meißen is a viable option as of grade 7. In order to become a student at this school, students must be in possession of a recommendation for this Gymnasium and undergo a special admission procedure.

Initial Orientation

Grades 5 and 6 at the Gymnasium serve to provide orientation just as they do at the Oberschule. Similar curricula enable a smooth transition between the two types of schools. Most schools offer remedial or advanced classes for advanced or weaker students, open learning or classes to improve study skills. Starting in grade 5, new subjects are introduced: history, geography, biology and technology/computers. English classes introduced in elementary school continue at the Gymnasium. Starting in grade 6, all students learn a second foreign lan-

guage. Physics is also introduced in this grade, followed by computer science and chemistry in grade 7.

Getting to Know your Strengths and Interests

The goal of specialized instruction starting in grade 8 is for students to become aware of, develop and hone their own strengths, abilities and interests. Students can choose from several specialized courses which meet each week for three hours. A third of this instruction time is dedicated to informational education in grades 9 and 10.

Specialization in Natural Sciences

Scientific thinking forms the foundation of the engineering and medical disciplines. In these specialized courses, knowledge of physics, chemistry and biology are linked in an interdisciplinary way. Almost all Gymnasium schools offer these specialized courses.

Specialization in Languages

The ability to speak one or more languages eloquently and with confidence is a prerequisite for many professions. Students selecting the language specialization will learn a third foreign language.

Specialization in Social Sciences

In combination with their particular subjects, students learn to examine social issues and associate them with economic, historical and geographical considerations.

Specialization in Art

Through the in-depth study of various artistic subjects, students can hone their creativity and develop the ability to make sound judgments and improve their organizational skills.

Specialization in Sports

In addition to physical exercise, students learn to combine scientific knowledge with psychosocial and sports theory to solve problems. Work groups, competitions or corporate internships complement the Gymnasium curriculum. Since many work groups are conducted in cooperation with companies, universities or municipalities, students have plenty of opportunities to become acquainted with the professional world.

Learning at the Upper Secondary Level

In grade 10, preparations for graduation begin. Student work on subjects with complex course material becomes increasingly independent as great emphasis is placed on working independently at this stage. Students can also familiarize themselves with structures, electives and teaching methods that they will be faced with in grades 11 and 12.

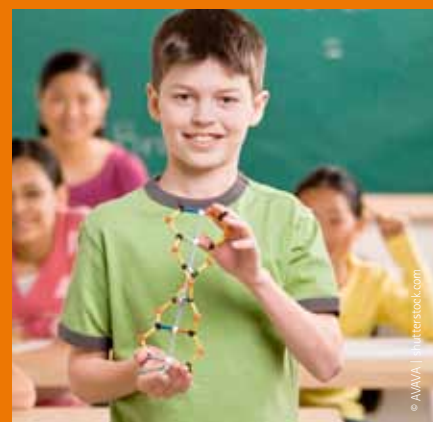
The Path to Graduation (Abitur)

The upper secondary school curriculum entails two main subjects at accelerated levels and a series of courses covering basic subjects. The first main course is German or math. The second main course is history, physics or continuation of a foreign language. Some Gymnasium schools offer art or chemistry as well. Grades are distributed using a sophisticated points system ranging from 0 (the worst score) to 15 points (the best score). The main focus is on preparation using scientific working methods. Students learn different procedures for managing complex tasks independently, finding suitable solutions and for controlling their personal learning process. In grades 11 and 12, students have the opportunity to complete a "special assignment" on a topic they may select themselves, and which can then be recognized as part of their overall qualification in place of an oral exam for the Abitur examination.



What's next?

With the graduation diploma required for university entrance (Abitur), students have access to all German universities. Studying abroad is also possible.



Tips and Information

For detailed information about Oberschule and Gymnasium schools in Saxony, the following brochure is available in German:



Fit für die Zukunft

Oberschulen und Gymnasien in Sachsen

Förderschulen (Special Needs Schools).

Individual Support

Saxony offers a variety of school types and locations for children and adolescents with longer-term special education needs.

Teachers advise parents which school can best meet their child's special needs. Integration plays an important role at regular schools. This principle is upheld in special needs schools by having as many shared courses as possible and offering as much special educational assistance as necessary. Disabled children and children without disabilities play, live and learn together. Both benefit because by being together, they strengthen their social skills and encourage each other in various areas of knowledge and interests. As we become more able to provide additional teachers and qualified support staff and caregivers, as well as facilities for disabled people, more students with special needs will be integrated into the everyday school life of other general education schools.

Students who cannot be sufficiently integrated into other general education schools and who have longer-term special education needs due to physical or psychological impairment, go to a Förderschule (special needs school). In eight different types of Förderschule schools, students are prepared for independent living in the community and an occupational activity. The schools aim to make (re-) integration into other general education schools possible. Specially trained teachers, special equipment, as well as class sizes are based on the children's needs and their individual learning abilities.

Schools for Children with Behavioral Problems and Speech Therapy Schools

The schools for children with emotional and behavioral problems are set up for students with special education needs in the areas of

emotional and social development. Students whose ability to communicate is severely limited attend speech therapy school. Both schools cover grades 1 through 4 and generally attempt to integrate students into the general education schools. In exceptional cases, classes may be continued up to grade 10. The elementary and high school curricula are used.

Schools for Children with Learning Difficulties

The needs of students with major difficulties in the areas of learning, language, perception and social behavior are met here. Under certain conditions, it is possible to acquire a Hauptschulabschluss (lower secondary school diploma). Open forms of instruction, project-oriented classes, as well as individual and group work make it possible to consider the individual abilities, aptitudes and interests the students have. Besides the acquisition of applied knowledge, special emphasis is placed on the development of practical skills. At Saxony's schools for learning disabled children, students with special needs may graduate in the area of learning. Students must pass all subjects with a "satisfactory" grade, or must be able to offset a grade of "poor". In the mandatory grade 9 course "complex abilities", students must also be able to demonstrate that they have gained basic knowledge that is adaptable and application-oriented, and that they possess practical life skills.

School for the Mentally Disabled

The school for the mentally disabled uses its own curriculum for instruction. In addition to general education at the elementary, middle and high school levels, this type of school provides basic vocational education. Each stage

consists of three school years. No grades are given. The assessment is based on the students' individual learning progress. A graduation diploma with a focus on intellectual development is issued upon completion of the individual education plan at each stage.

School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

This school is divided into an elementary and high school section, as well as into classes for the learning disabled and mentally disabled students. The school prepares blind and visually impaired children to live in a predominantly visually-oriented world so that they lead active, socially-integrated lives. Specific tools for this include computers with Braille and speech output, screen readers and talking calculators.

School for the Hearing Impaired

This school assists deaf children or children with severe hearing impairments to develop language and communication skills through special education programs. Students have the opportunity to learn the vocal and written language, sign language and the finger spelling alphabet. This education aims to help students master educational and vocational learning processes as well as everyday life.

School for Physically Disabled Children

This school is for physically disabled children and children with multiple disabilities. The curriculum is based on programs at general education schools, schools for children with learning difficulties and schools for the mentally disabled, depending on the specific needs the students have. Teachers provide individual support using educational teaching aids.

Hospital Schools

These schools educate critically and chronically ill children who are confined to a hospital or sanatorium for longer periods of time or at regular intervals. The goal is to facilitate re-integration into previously attended classes. The scope of instruction is coordinated with a physician.



Saxony implements the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:
There are currently 8,200 students with disabilities studying together with non-disabled students at general education schools.

What's next?

Graduates from special needs schools can continue on to vocational training or higher education. If this is not possible, students can take advantage of assistance that takes their individual skills into consideration in preparation for independent living and working, or be placed in a workshop for the disabled. Detailed information is available starting on page 18 in this brochure.

Counseling Centers

There are counseling centers at many special needs schools. These serve to provide affected parents and teachers at the general education schools with qualified counseling services concerning individual support.



Tips and Information

For detailed information about special needs education in Saxony, the following brochure is available in German:



Vielfalt als Chance

Sonderpädagogische Förderung in Sachsen

Berufsschule (Vocational School).

Dual Education



Fotos © Frank Glatz, Dresden

The Oberschule (high school) is usually followed by a three-year compulsory vocational education program. Young people enter into an apprenticeship contract in one of the approximately 350 recognized occupations that require formal training. In the dual education system, training companies and vocational schools work together as equal partners. The company provides the young people with practical training, while the vocational school has the responsibility of imparting the required theoretical knowledge and continuing general education. Instruction takes place either one or two days per week, or in a block lasting several weeks. Students who have not obtained their Realschulabschluss (secondary school diploma) can receive their Realschulabschluss, depending on their performance at vocational school and their grades on their final exams. Vocational training in the dual system provides a solid basis for the professional development of young people.

Tips and Information on Selecting a Career

The school database at www.bildung.sachsen.de provides an overview of the different profiles at vocational schools. The career information centers at local employment agencies are the most important point of contact for individuals seeking information on occupations requiring formal training. Furthermore, schools offer support and advice on career options. Numerous informational events such as "Open House Week in Saxony" provide students with insights into Saxon companies and the professional world.

Opportunities for Young People without Apprenticeships

Individuals who do not obtain an Abschluss (diploma) from the Oberschule (high school) are still eligible to complete a pre-vocational training year. Those who do not secure an apprenticeship contract despite having a diploma are eligible for professional training with a basic vocational training year. Both types of training will satisfy the requirement for compulsory vocational education.

Berufsvorbereitungsjahr (Pre-vocational Training Year)

Building on Strengths and Interests

During the pre-vocational training year, young people are introduced to two professional areas and are given the opportunity to get to know their own personal strengths and interests. Pre-vocational training provides support in choosing a profession and motivates students to start vocational training. Successful graduates are awarded with the Hauptschulabschluss (lower secondary school diploma).

Basic Vocational Training Year

A Good Foundation

The basic vocational training year provides a basic, full-time vocational education for several related occupations such as metallurgy and wood technology. The curriculum covers technical theory and practical training experience in addition to general education. After completing the basic vocational training year, it is possible to begin a dual Berufsausbildung (professional education). The completed basic vocational training year can count as the first training year towards a dual professional education.



Nearly 6,200 teachers instruct 105,100 trainees at approx. 280 vocational schools in Saxony.



Requirements

An Ausbildungsvertrag (apprenticeship contract) is required to attend a Berufsschule (vocational school).

What's next?

After completing the Berufsschule (vocational school), it is possible to immediately start with a profession, or pursue additional qualifications:

Fachschule – professional school

(qualification for professionals)

Fachoberschule – specialized high school

(Fachhochschulreife – university of applied science entrance qualification)

Berufliches Gymnasium – vocational high school (Abitur)

Abendgymnasium – evening high school (Abitur while working full-time)



Tips and Information

For detailed information about vocational schools, the following brochure is available in German:



Wege zum Beruf

Berufsbildende Schulen in Sachsen

Berufsfachschule (Full-time Vocational School).

Professional Education at School



At the Berufsfachschule, graduates of general education schools can obtain officially recognized professional qualifications in two to three years of full-time school education. The school carries the overall responsibility for vocational training.

Professional education is predominantly offered in the health and social services disciplines, but training in traditional skilled trades, such as watchmaker or musical instrument builder, are also available.

The training is divided into theoretical and practical instruction at school and occupational training or internships in companies. This way, students can collect professional skills, initial professional experiences, as well as acquaint themselves with occupational procedures and the professional social environment while applying their knowledge and skills in real work situations.

Students with a Hauptschulabschluss (lower secondary school diploma) may receive a Re-

alschulabschluss (high school diploma) upon successful completion of their vocational education.

Healthcare and Social Services Professions

Saxony's full-time professional schools offer professional education that complies with state and national regulations, particularly in the healthcare and social service sectors that lead to the following professional qualifications:

- Nurse
- Nurse assistant
- Geriatric nurse
- Social assistant
- Physiotherapist
- Occupational therapist
- Midwife
- Medical documentation assistant
- Pharmaceutical technician/assistant

Traditional Skilled Trades

Professions that have become a rarity today, such as watchmaker, violin maker, the reed-organ or stringed musical instrument maker,

can be studied in either a dual education training (see page 18) or at a Berufsfachschule (full-time vocational school). The specialized educational institutions are part of a vocational school complex and are located in Glashütte (for watchmaking) or Klingenthal (for making musical instruments).

Requirements

The entry requirements are determined by the educational career path. The majority of the educational programs at Berufsfachschulen require the Realschulabschluss (high school diploma).

What's next?

After obtaining a Berufsabschluss (training qualification) at a Berufsfachschule, students may start their professional careers. Advanced training at a Fachschule (professional school) is possible after several years of work experience. Those who still wish to study at a university of applied science may obtain the Fachhochschulreife (university of applied science entrance qualification) at a Fachoberschule (specialized high school) or get their Abitur at a Berufliches Gymnasium (vocational high school).

Tips and Information

For detailed information about vocational schools in Saxony, the following brochure is available in German:



Wege zum Beruf
Berufsbildende Schulen in Sachsen



Fachschule (Professional School) Advanced Occupational Training.



Skilled workers who have completed a professional education and have work experience can obtain additional qualifications at a Fachschule that builds on the students' professional experience and prepares them for intermediate level responsibilities. The Fachhochschulreife (university of applied science entrance qualification) can also be acquired at the Fachschule.

Full-time training takes two to three years and part-time training takes four years at the most. The final exam includes a written, an oral and, if applicable, a practical component. At the Fachschule for Sozialwesen (professional school for social services), additional practical training must be completed and concludes with a practical exam. This comprises a practical task as well as a comprehensive interview.

Specializations

The professional schools and agricultural professional schools offer a variety of specializations in the fields of technology, economics, social services and design.

More detailed information is available online in the Saxon school database at: www.bildung.sachsen.de.

Requirements

The Fachschule (professional school) is open to those who have already completed a professional education and have work experience.

What's next?

Professionals who complete courses at the school are in a position to take on jobs at a mid-level between the skilled tradesman and university graduates. Those who wish to pick up further qualifications can enroll in a university program.

Tips and Information

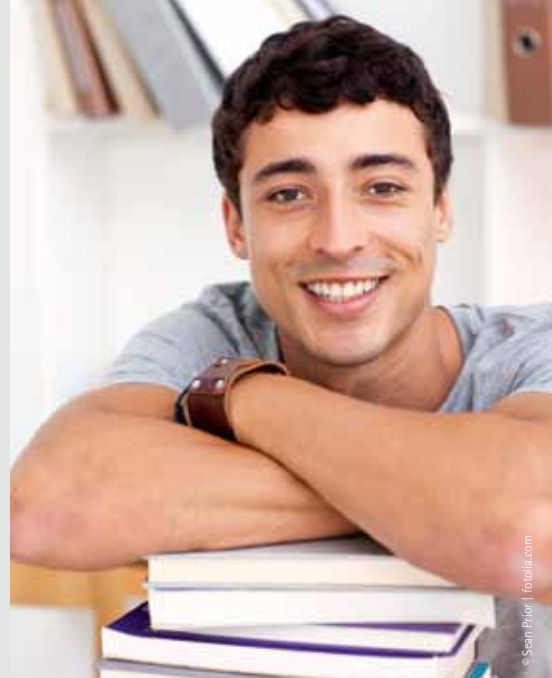
For detailed information about vocational schools, the following brochure is available in German:



Wege zum Beruf
Berufsbildende Schulen in Sachsen

Fachoberschule (Specialized High School).

The path to a Fachhochschule (University of Applied Science)



Would you like to study at university after obtaining your Realschulabschluss (high school diploma)? At the Fachoberschule, young people and adults may obtain the Fachhochschulreife (university of applied science entrance qualification). The education includes general and theoretical instruction. For students with a Realschulabschluss (high school diploma), qualification takes two years. The first year also includes practical instruction outside of school. Anyone who has already obtained a Berufsabschluss (vocational training qualification) is eligible to attend the one-year Fachoberschule, where a specialization that corresponds to an occupation that has previously been studied or

practiced is selected. The one-year Fachoberschule is offered full-time or, alternatively, part-time to accommodate professionals. Part-time studies take two years to complete.

Specializations

The following specializations are available at the Fachoberschule:

- Agriculture
- Design
- Social Services
- Technology
- Business and Administration

The selection of specializations does not determine the subjects that can be studied later at a university of applied science.

Advantages at a Glance

- Short training period (one to two years)
- No age limit
- No admission restrictions (e.g. minimum grade point average)



Requirements

To attend the Fachoberschule (specialized high school), you need to have a Realschulabschluss (high school diploma). To attend the one-year Fachoberschule, you additionally need to have completed a Berufsausbildung (professional education).

What's next?

Graduation from a Fachoberschule entitles you to study at a Fachhochschule (university of applied science).

Tips and Information

For detailed information about vocational schools in Saxony, the following brochure is available in German:



Wege zum Beruf
Berufsbildende Schulen in Sachsen

Berufliches Gymnasium (Vocational High School).

The Alternative Path to an Abitur



Requirements

The Berufliches Gymnasium is suitable for everyone who has a good Realschulabschluss (high school diploma) and is younger than 18 years (or less than 21 years old if they have completed professional education).

What's next?

The Abitur provides students with access to all German universities and universities of applied science, as well as the eligibility to study abroad.

Tips and Information

For detailed information about vocational schools in Saxony, the following brochure is available in German:



Wege zum Beruf
Berufsbildende Schulen in Sachsen

Those who have a good Realschulabschluss (high school diploma) or have completed vocational training can obtain an Abitur at a Berufliche Gymnasium (vocational high school). This paves the way to universities and universities of applied science. In contrast to the Gymnasium, the Berufliches Gymnasium provides additional, occupation-related material in the chosen specialization. Grade 11 offers students the opportunity to compensate for any difference in knowledge levels. In Grades 12 and 13, instruction is divided into focal subjects and basic subjects like at a Gymnasium.

Specializations

- Agricultural Sciences
- Biotechnology
- Nutritional Sciences
- Health and Social Services
- Information and Communication Technology
- Engineering and Technology with a focus on
 - Construction
 - Data Processing Technology
 - Electrical Engineering
 - Mechanical Engineering
- Economics

By selecting their specialization, students are not determining forever their direction of study. This means that even those who chose "Engineering and Technology" may, for example, study business administration later on.

High School Diplomas for Adults.

Adult Education



Adults may also obtain school diplomas from general education schools to open up new professional opportunities. Evening high schools and evening Gymnasium schools offer opportunities to do this. Full-time instruction is available at college.

Evening High School

General Education and High School Diploma Methodology customized for adults prepares participants for the Hauptschulabschluss (lower secondary school diploma), the qualifizierten Hauptschulabschluss (qualified lower secondary school diploma) or the Realschulabschluss (high school diploma). The courses last one or two years, depending on the educational goal.

For the last half of the coursework period, students may apply for BaföG (student loans) under certain conditions. Instruction is usually carried out in evening classes that are held at schools.

Evening Gymnasium and Kolleg

The Abitur is awarded to working professionals at the evening Gymnasium. At Kolleg, the Abitur may be obtained through full-time studies. Depending on the applicant's qualifications when starting, the curriculum may last three or four years. For the most part, the curriculum corresponds to that of the general education Gymnasium. Just like at Gymnasium, some subjects are taught at an advanced level, while

others are on a basic level. At evening Gymnasium, coursework consists of approximately 23 hours per week, whereas the number of hours per week is 32 at the Kolleg. Those studying at the Kolleg may apply for BaföG for the entire duration of their studies. Those studying at evening Gymnasium may apply for BaföG during their last one and half years under certain conditions.



More than 2,700 adults are currently taking advantage of the opportunities presented by adult education to obtain their high school diplomas.



Requirements

- Those who have completed their compulsory education but have not yet obtained their desired diploma are eligible for evening high school.
- The prerequisite for evening Gymnasium and Kolleg (an institute where higher education entrance qualifications can be obtained) is: completed professional training or working in an occupation for at least two years. Working professionally or pursuing an activity on par with an occupation (i.e. parental leave, military service or community service). Unemployment attested by the Federal Employment Agency is also recognized.
For the three-year training period: lower secondary school diploma
For the four-year training period: high school diploma

Additional Opportunities

Additional vocational education and training options are available with a diploma obtained from evening high school. The Abitur provides student with access to all German universities and universities of applied science, as well as options to study abroad.



Continuing Education.



Approximately 147,000 participants attended the more than 14,700 courses offered at Saxony's community colleges in 2013. Language courses were the most popular.

Lifelong Learning

Education is not part of any particular stage in life---it's a lifelong process. A salesperson completes a computer course at community college; additional qualifications can form the basis for the next career step; a retired engineer begins to study art history. These are just a few examples of many. Lifelong learning is crucial to be competitive in the labor market, obtain a professional education, a high school diploma or simply focus on personal development.

Traditional educational careers that finish with the end of school or university often no longer meet the changing demands of the working world. Lifelong learning integrates preschool education, school education, vocational edu-

cation, higher education, as well as continuing career and general education and training to create a system that allows unrestricted access where one level builds on the previous level.

Opportunities for Everyone

There are numerous educational institutions for continuing education that offer a broad spectrum of opportunities throughout Saxony. The topics are related to professional, general, cultural or political education. The scope extends from one-off evening and weekend seminars or field trips, to qualification courses for several months in general education or vocational training.



For further information:

- www.weiterbildung.sachsen.de
- www.bildungsmarkt-sachsen.de
- www.slpb.de (Sächsische Landeszentrale für politische Bildung)

Information and Advice.

© Spaulin | fotolia.com

WIR BEWEGEN
BILDUNG
BEWEGT UNS

The regional offices of Saxony's Education Agency

The regional offices are local contacts for school-related issues or problems. They are the local education authorities responsible for issues regarding content and the staffing of schools. They maintain close and regular contact with the schools, the school boards and parent and student councils. The counseling department at the regional offices can be contacted for problems individual students may have or everyday school issues.

Regional office Bautzen

Street address:
Otto-Nagel-Straße 1, 02625 Bautzen
Mailing address:
Postfach 4444, 02634 Bautzen
Telephone: +49 3591 621 - 0
Email: poststelle@sbab.sachsen.de
Ombudsman
Telephone: +49 3591 621326

Regional office Chemnitz

Street address:
Annaberger Str. 119, 09120 Chemnitz
Mailing address:
Postfach 1334, 09072 Chemnitz
Telephone: +49 371 5366 - 0
Email: poststelle@sbac.sachsen.de
Ombudsman
Telephone: +49 371 5366 - 105

Regional office Dresden

Street address:
Großenhainer Str. 92, 01127 Dresden
Mailing address:
Postfach 230120, 01111 Dresden
Telephone: +49 351 8439 - 0
Email: poststelle@sbad.sachsen.de
Ombudsman
Telephone: +49 351 8439 - 450

Regional office Leipzig

Street address:
Nonnenstraße 17 A, 04229 Leipzig
Mailing address:
Postfach 10 06 53, 04006 Leipzig
Telephone: +49 341 4945 - 50
Email: poststelle@sbal.sachsen.de
Ombudsman
Telephone: +49 341 4945 - 666

Regional office Zwickau

Street address:
Makarenkostr. 2, 08066 Zwickau
Mailing address:
Postfach 200942, 08009 Zwickau
Telephone: +49 375 4444 - 0
Email: poststelle@sbaz.sachsen.de
Ombudsman
Telephone: +49 375 4444 - 333

Saxon Parents' Council

Street address:
Hoyerswerdaer Straße 1, 01099 Dresden
Mailing address:
Postfach 10 09 10, 01079 Dresden
Telephone: +49 351 5634 - 732
Email: info@ler-sachsen.de
Contact:
Ms. Mechthild Wilkowski
www.ler-sachsen.de

Saxon Students' Council

Hoyerswerdaer Straße 1
01099 Dresden, Germany
Telephone: +49 351 5634 - 734
Email: buero@lsr-sachsen.de
www.lsr-sachsen.de

WIR BEWEGEN
BILDUNG
BEWEGT UNS

Publisher:

Saxon State Ministry of Education
Carolaplatz 1, 01097 Dresden, Germany
Public hotline: +49 351 5642526
Email: info@smk.sachsen.de
www.bildung.sachsen.de

Design and layout:

www.oe-grafik.de, Löser & Partner

Photos:

Front page: Photo ©Frank Grätz, Dresden
Photo credits below the photos

Translation:

Schweitzer Sprachendienst Radebeul

Printing:

Stoba-Druck GmbH

Circulation:

35,000 copies

Press date:

6|2015

Costs:

Free

Zentraler Broschürenversand der Sächsischen Staatsregierung
(Central brochure distribution of the Saxon State Government)
Hammerweg 30, 01127 Dresden, Germany
Telephone: +49 351 2103671
Email: publikationen@sachsen.de
www.publikationen.sachsen.de

Distribution note:

This informational brochure is published by the Saxon State Government
as part of its constitutional obligation to inform the general public.

Copyright:

This publication is protected by copyright laws. All rights, including
the reprinting of extracts and image reproduction are reserved for the publisher.