



Welcome to Saxony's schools





Dear parents and students,

Welcome to the Free State of Saxony. Over the coming days and weeks, you'll have to make a lot of decisions regarding your future, including day-care and school attendance. You and your family now have the same duties and rights to education and care as all other children in Germany.

Specifically speaking, this means ...

... for pre-school children and

... day-care attendance

A child may be looked after at a day-care facility or by a day carer during daytime hours. If the child is at least one year old, he/she is entitled to receive education and care at a nursery school or from a day carer. Children aged 3 and over may attend kindergarten up until the time they start school. Thereafter, school-age children may attend day care before or after school. This care is partly paid for by the parents. If you are unable to finance this share, your city's or municipality's Youth Welfare Office will bear the costs. The Youth Welfare Office also offers counselling. Consultation hours are Tuesdays from 9am to 5pm.

... for children aged 6 and over

To ensure all school-age children get off to a successful start in the Saxon school system, Saxony has introduced a special education counselling service at regional branches of the Saxon Education Agency. These regional branches are located in Bautzen, Chemnitz, Dresden, Leipzig and Zwickau. Consultation hours for this service are Tuesdays from 1pm to 5pm. Appointments can also be made by telephone.



What is the process at this special education counselling session?

The consultation serves to provide information on the various education options, and help answer the question of how education commenced in the country of origin can be continued in Saxony. The years of schooling completed in the country of origin are also recognised, and an assessment is conducted to determine whether a process for recognising foreign educational qualifications is required. The consultation aims to facilitate school allocation. Most students will then initially attend a preparatory class to learn German.

What happens in the preparatory class?

In the preparatory class, students receive lessons in "German as a second language". In addition to everyday language, they particularly also learn the language of education required for attending regular lessons.

German is taught over several stages:

The first stage teaches basic everyday language skills.

- In the second stage, students continue learning German as a second language in the preparatory class, but simultaneously also participate in other subjects in the new class they have been integrated into. This allows them to meet their new classmates. The aim of gradual integration into regular lessons is to develop skills in the language of education as quickly as possible.
- In the first two stages, the support teacher is the most important contact at the school. They also help with general questions about everyday school life.

What happens next?

The third stage sees students attend regular classes. They are now able to study all subjects in the new class. They also continue to learn German as a second language.

After completing primary school, the students move to either an Oberschule (secondary school) or Gymnasium (grammar school), depending on their individual performance.

At a Gymnasium, your child can sit the Abitur (school-leaving examination), which, if passed, also entitles him/her to study at a university.

Graduates of an Oberschule receive either a Hauptschulabschluss or Realschulabschluss. The latter enables him/her to undertake vocational training and attend a Berufliches Gymnasium (upper secondary school offering academic and vocational components) or Fachoberschule (specialised secondary education institution) in order to complete his/her Abitur or obtain Fachhochschulreife (entrance qualification to a university of applied science) as a further qualification.

... for young adults over 18

Young adults aged over 18 who wish to complete the Abitur can apply for this in writing at a college in Saxony (Breitenbrunn, Freiberg, Leipzig). The colleges offer special education counselling, and run preparatory classes for learning German.

Those over 18 wishing to take up work or a language course do not require special education counselling. The available language courses, as well as services offered by the Federal Employment Agency in a particular region, can all be found online at KURSNET: <http://kursnet-finden.arbeitsagentur.de/kurs/>



Who can help and answer your questions?

To arrange an initial consultation, please contact one of the following Migration/Integration Co-ordinators at the Saxon Education Agency:

Referentin Dorothea Winkler

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