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Education and school

NRW school system and school types

Compulsory schooling

Education is very important and a prerequisite for undertaking a regular job. In Germany, therefore, attending school is mandatory. Attending school is free of charge.

All children from the age of 6 until the age of 18 must come to school every day from Monday to Friday. Exceptions are school and public holidays. Teaching hours are determined by the timetable.

If your child cannot come to school, this must be communicated by telephone by the parents. In case of illness, a medical certificate is required from the 4th day.

Parents' consultation days (Elternsprechtage) are held regularly for parents. Please make sure to attend, because there you can talk to the teachers and find out important information.

School system in Germany

The German school system offers various options for your child.

Click this link to see a flyer about the German school system in different languages

⇒ ["Schulsystem NRW - einfach und schnell erklärt"](#)

You can find it at this link:

Click this link to see is a ⇒ [short film on the school system available in German, English, Arabic, Bulgarian, Persian, Polish, Romanian, Serbian and Turkish.](#)

School enrolment

School registration for children and young people with little or no knowledge of German between the ages of 6 and 18 takes place at the "Dienstleistungszentrum Bildung" (Service Centre for Education):

City of Dortmund

Fachbereich Schule (Department for Schooling)

"Dienstleistungszentrum Bildung" (Education Service Centre)

📍 Königswall 25-27, 1st Floor
44137 Dortmund



[02315010747](tel:02315010747)

www.dlzbildung.dortmund.de

[Here you can find our information flyer!](#)



Walk-in hours:

You can drop by without an appointment on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Further dates are available on request.

Please bring with you:

- the "Anmeldebescheinigung" (registration certificate) of the City of Dortmund
- the pupil's "Personalausweis" (identity card)

The pupil must also take part in the session.

"Schulbetreuung" (Open All-Day School)

Working parents or parents attending an integration course can enrol school-age children in a school support programme at their respective school. In the so-called "open all-day school" (OGS), the children receive lunch, homework supervision and can take part in sports such as swimming, dancing and ball sports.

Registration for "Schulbetreuung" (Open All-Day School) is done through the respective school.

Educational mentoring

Adult mentors accompany young people with refugee experience between the ages of 12 and 22 in a 1:1 mentoring programme on their educational path. In addition to academic support, the mentors also organise leisure activities with the mentees. This allows the mentees to discover unknown interests, gain new experiences and strengthen their self-confidence. The aim is to strengthen new educational perspectives and participation.

[Registering to be a mentee](#)

Train of Hope Dortmund e. V.

Thomas Mecha

📍 Münsterstr. 54, 44147 Dortmund

☎ 023197062647

@bildungsmentoring@trainofhope-do.de

Extracurricular education for children and young people

The open child and youth development programme offers many leisure and educational activities for young people throughout Dortmund.



Children and young people from the age of 6 can visit and help shape the 80 small and large facilities.

You can find more information [here](#).

Coordination centre for children and young people from African cultures

The coordination centre supports children, young people and families of African origin. It is a contact point for questions and offers advice, leisure activities and holiday activities.

Parents often receive information directly from the schools. The centre helps with difficult problems. It can refer you to the youth welfare office or other specialist centres.

All programmes are free of charge for participants!

You can find more information [here](#).

Respect Office

The Respect Office is committed to democracy and diversity. It is a contact point for young people aged 14 and over, parents and professionals.

It offers workshops, training and helps with the development of joint projects.

It also supports campaigns for a cosmopolitan and tolerant Dortmund.

The Respect Office is against all forms of extremism and hostility towards democracy.

You can find more information [here](#).

Children's culture

There are many exciting events, workshops and projects organised by the children and youth development department. They can be creative and try out new things.

Children can try out reading aloud, painting, handicrafts, writing, theatre, singing, dancing, music or cooking.

Most of the activities are **free of charge** and are organised together with the young people.

You can find more information [here](#).

Completing school-leaving qualifications in adulthood

There are many opportunities to gain a school-leaving certificate in Dortmund, even as an adult.

Abendrealschule Max-von-der-Grün

Contact:



📍 Rheinische Straße 69
44137 Dortmund

☎ [0231/50-29424](tel:02315029424)

🌐 www.ars-do.de

The start date is always after the summer holidays and at the beginning of February

Admission requirements:

- Minimum age of 17
- At least half a year of professional activity (this also includes voluntary services, running a family household or unemployment). Alternatively: Attending school while working a mini-job

Attending school is free of charge

School qualifications: HSA 9, HSA 10, MSchA, MSchA-Q

We only run afternoon and evening courses

Adult education centre

Contact:

📍 Rheinische Straße 69
44137 Dortmund

☎ [0231/50-29395](tel:02315029395)

🌐 www.vhs.dortmund.de

The start date is always after the summer holidays and at the beginning of February

Admission requirements:

- Minimum age of 16

Attending school is free of charge

School qualifications: HSA 9, HSA 10, MSchA, MSchA-Q

Evangelisches Bildungswerk

Contact:

📍 Ruhrallee 85 / Schwanenwall 34
44135 Dortmund

☎ [0231/8494400](tel:02318494400)

🌐 www.fachbereichbildung.de



The start date is always after the summer holidays

75 EUR per month, plus a one-off examination fee of 75 EUR

School qualifications: HSA 10, MSchA

Westfalen-Kolleg

Contact:

📍 Rheinische Straße 67
44137 Dortmund

☎ [0231/139050](tel:0231139050)

🌐 www.westfalenkolleg-dortmund.de

Admission requirements:

- Minimum age of 18
- Have completed vocational training or have been employed for two years

School qualifications: "schulischer Teil Fachhochschulreife, Abitur" (school-based academic qualifications that make a person eligible for university study)

Recognising foreign school-leaving certificates

Certificates are very important in Germany. If you want to start further education or vocational training, you will need to present your certificates. You must first have your foreign certificate recognised.

What do I need to do?

You should start by finding a translator. The translation must be done by a professional translation agency.

You can find an overview of accredited interpreters in Germany here

⇒ www.justiz-dolmetscher.de

After that, you will need to have your certificated officially recognised . The following bodies can do this: public authorities, for example city administrations (Rathaus), district administrations, mayors and notaries.

As a final step, you must submit an application and include the following documents :

- A copy of your passport with your residence permit
- Curriculum vitae
- Foreign certificate and translated certificate.

Responsible government offices



Different authorities may be responsible for recognising your certificate depending on the type of school-leaving qualification you hold:

- An intermediate school-leaving qualification (“Mittlere Reife”) and / or secondary-school diploma (Hauptschulabschluss)

📍 Bezirksregierung Köln
Zeughausstr. 2-10
50606 Köln

☎ [02211472048](tel:02211472048)

📞 Telephone hours:

9:00 am to 11:30 am (Monday + Wednesday) and
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm (Tuesday + Thursday)

Visitors' day:

Thursday, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

Application form and further information can be found ⇒ [here](#)

- “Allgemeine Hochschulreife” (general university entrance qualification)

Bezirksregierung Düsseldorf
Am Bonnhof 35
40474 Düsseldorf

☎ [02114750](tel:02114750)

Application form and further information ⇒ [here](#).

Vocational further education

Even after finishing school, training courses and university studies, you still have the opportunity to pursue continued education. Adult education offers are essentially open to all people. They cover a wide range of topics, for example:

- Languages
- Life and education issues
- Culture, art and music
- Society, politics and the economy
- Technology and natural sciences
- Sport and health

You can also continue your education professionally.

The **“Dortmunder Weiterbildungsforum” (Dortmund Forum for Continuing Education)** provides - in its capacity as a network of 45 small and large further education providers in Dortmund - independent, neutral advice for citizens, as well as information for

companies.

📍 Küpferstr.1
44135 Dortmund



[02312861490](tel:02312861490)



info@dwf-do.de

Advice centres

“Jugendmigrationsdienste” (Youth Migration Services)

The “[Jugendmigrationsdienste](#)” ([Youth Migration Services](#)) support all young people with a migration background with low-threshold services.

Main point of focus: Vocational training/employment market, health, housing situation or school integration

“Dienstleistungszentrum Bildung” (Education Service Centre)

The “[Dienstleistungszentrum Bildung](#)” ([Education Service Centre](#)) provides

- all newly arrived children and young people with educational counselling
- finds school placements for compulsory education
- advice on having foreign school-leaving qualifications recognised

📍 Königswall 25-27
44137 Dortmund



[02315010747](tel:02315010747)



dlzb@stadtdo.de

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Beratungshaus Inklusion Dortmund for supporting school inclusion in the region

Beratungshaus Inklusion provides information, counselling and support for teachers, parents, educators and all others seeking advice on issues of inclusive school support for children and young people.

[>>Click here](#) to see our flyer

This free and independent counselling can be provided by

- telephone
- by email
- in person (at the respective institution or at the Beratungshaus (advisory service centre))

A multidisciplinary team is available for enquiries about

- **all**special needs and other areas:
- Early intervention with a focus on hearing/communication and vision
- Autism
- Transitions (elementary level - primary level; primary level - secondary level I - secondary level II)
- Augmentative and alternative communication/ assistive technologies
- Therapy and care management at school
- Educational psychological issues

If necessary, the Beratungshaus will also work together with other advisory institutions.

Contact:


Beratungshaus Inklusion



[Marsbruchstraße 178](#)
44287 Dortmund



[0231534702167](tel:0231534702167)

 0231534702165



dortmund@beratungshaus-inklusion.de



www.beratungshaus-dortmund.de