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School, daycare centre and education

School system

NRW school system and school types

Compulsory schooling

Education is very important and a prerequisite for a regular career. This is why school attendance is compulsory in Germany. School attendance is free of charge.

All children from the age of 6 to the age of 18 must go to school. Exceptions are holidays and public holidays. Lesson times are based on the timetable.

If your child cannot come to school, the parents must inform us by telephone.

Parents' consultation days are held regularly. Please take part in these, where you can talk to the teachers and obtain important information.

School system in Germany

The German school system offers various options for your child.

💡 Flyer about the German school system in different languages 🌐
<https://www.schulministerium.nrw/schulsystem>

💡 Short film about the school system in German, English, Arabic, Bulgarian, Persian, Polish, Romanian, Serbian and Turkish 🌐
<https://www.ruhrfutur.de/schule/schulen-im-team/f...>

School enrolment

School enrolment for children and young people with little or no knowledge of German between the ages of 6 and 18 takes place here

🌐 [Oberbergischer Kreis: School authority for the Oberbergischer Kreis \(obk.de\)](https://www.obk.de)

Please bring with you:

- the certificate of enrolment
- the identity card of the pupil

The pupil must also take part in the counselling session.

Education authority for the Oberberg district

The education authority for the Oberberg district

The school authority for the Oberberg district advises and supports teachers, pupils and their parents and guardians.

The school authority for the OBK is responsible for Primary schools, secondary modern schools and special schools.

It is responsible for service and technical supervision.

Contact

School authority for the Oberberg district

📍 [Industriestraße 2, 51643 Gummersbach](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2261884227](tel:+49(0)2261884227)

Vocational colleges

Are you over 15 years old and no longer attending school?

Are you over 15 years old? Are you no longer attending school? School attendance is compulsory in Germany. People in Germany must attend school until the age of 18 (Schulpflicht)! You have many options at a vocational college:

You can prepare for a career. You can obtain a general school-leaving qualification. For example, the Hauptschulabschluss. Or the vocational baccalaureate.

Are you over 18 years old?

At a vocational college, you learn for the job. Or you can prepare for an apprenticeship (Ausbildungsvorbereitung). You can obtain various school-leaving qualifications. As a rule, all qualifications are possible at a vocational college. Vocational colleges are specially designed for this purpose.

Do you already have a school-leaving qualification?

You can obtain further qualifications. You can also attend further education and training courses. You can also start an apprenticeship.

What does a Berufskolleg do?

Vocational schools (Berufskolleg) have programmes for pupils with or without qualifications. You can continue your vocational training and gain a school-leaving certificate. You haven't got a contract for an apprenticeship yet? You don't yet have a concrete idea of where you want to work? Here you can gain an insight into various professional fields. You can build on your secondary school leaving certificate. Or you can acquire your secondary school leaving certificate. As a rule, you stay at a vocational college for 1 to 3 years.

There are 3 vocational colleges with different specialisations at Oberbergischen Kreis.

Berufskolleg Oberberg

The specialisations are nutrition, home economics, health, social work and technology.

📍 [Ernst-Zimmermann-Straße 26, 51645 Gummersbach](#)

☎ [0226196800](#)

🌐 [Website Berufskolleg Dieringhausen](#)

Berufskolleg Oberberg

Kaufmännische Schulen

The specialisations are business and administration. This is important if you want to work in industry or retail.

📍 [Hans-Böckler-Straße 5, 51643 Gummersbach](#)

☎ [0226192960](#)

🌐 [Website Berufskolleg Gummersbach](#)

and

📍 [Alter Krankenhausweg 6, 51545 Waldbröl](#)

☎ [02291911371](#)

🌐 [Website Berufskolleg Waldbröl](#)

Berufskolleg Oberberg (Wipperfürth)

The focus is on business, nutrition, supply, home economics, health, social affairs, agriculture and technology.

📍 [Ringstraße 42, 51688 Wipperfürth](#)

☎ [02267887950](#)

🌐 [Website Berufskolleg Wipperfürth](#)

You can find more information about vocational colleges on this website:

🌐 <https://berufskollegs-oberberg.de/berufskollegs.html>

Education and participation

If you receive social benefits, you can receive money for your child. This applies to children up to their 18th birthday.

Young adults up to the age of 25 receive money for education if they attend school but do not earn money for training. Money for leisure, culture and sport is only available up to the age of 18.

The following grants are part of the education and participation package (BuT):

- Children and young people up to the age of 18 receive money for lessons, courses or leisure activities. This applies to leisure activities in culture, art, education and sport.

- Costs for excursions and trips with the school or day care centre are covered.
- Lunch at school and at the day care centre can be paid for.
- Schoolchildren receive money per school year for school materials and other costs.
- Schoolchildren can get extra tuition if they need it. The school decides in which subjects and for how long.
- Travel costs for the journey to school are paid in exceptional cases.


Children and young people from families who receive certain benefits can receive support.

Who is responsible?

Responsibility depends on your benefits:

1. Recipients of unemployment benefit II or citizen's allowance: The [job centre](#) is responsible.
2. Recipients of housing benefit, child supplement, social welfare and basic security benefits and benefits under the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act: The [social welfare office is responsible](#).

Important: You must always submit the application before you pay anything. If you have already paid something, you will not get the money back.

Further information and forms can be found [at](#)  [here](#).

Childcare

There are various forms of childcare. You will find the explanations below:

What is a Kita (child day care centre)?

“Kita” is a German term for a children's day-care centre. This is a place where your child can make friends, learn to play, and learn German and/or improve their German language skills. Attending day-care is very important and good preparation for school.

What is a crèche (Kinderkrippe)?

Crèches are day-care centres that cater primarily for children under the age of three.

What is a kindergarten (Kindergarten)?

Kindergartens are children's day-care centres that mainly cater for children aged three to school age.

What is a crèche (Kinderhort)?

Day nurseries are children's day-care centres that mainly cater for schoolchildren. Your child can do their school homework there. Depending on the capacity utilisation of the kindergarten, it is possible for the kindergarten to offer afternoon care for school children.

💡 Unfortunately, there are not enough places in the nursery. It is often necessary to enquire at several facilities and have your child placed on the waiting list.

The [migration counselling](#) service can help you with the registration.

Attending kindergarten costs money. Under certain circumstances, the cost of the kindergarten can be covered. Z. For example, if you do not yet have a job and receive benefits from the district office or job centre. To do this, you must submit an application to the [youth welfare office](#).

Child day care

Your child is looked after by a childminder in their home. They are responsible for a maximum of five children at the same time. Childminders have attended courses in which they have learned to look after children properly. The youth welfare office regularly checks the home and also the childminder. If you are interested in this form of childcare and would like more information, the [youth welfare office](#) can help you.