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School and education

General information on school attendance

Compulsory schooling in Germany

□ **Compulsory education in Germany**

In Germany, all children have to go to school. This is called compulsory education. Parents are not allowed to teach their children at home. Children should learn together at school.

- **When does compulsory schooling begin?**

Children start school at around the age of 6.

- **How long does compulsory schooling last?**

Children must attend school for at least 9 years. In Bavaria, compulsory schooling ends at the age of 15.

After that there are two options:

1. The youngsters continue on to a school such as a [Mittelschule](#), [Realschule](#), [Wirtschaftsschule](#) or [Gymnasium](#).
2. Or they attend a vocational school.

- **Until when does compulsory vocational schooling apply in Bavaria?**

Until the age of 21 or until you have completed the (specialised) Abitur.

- **What do parents have to do?**

Parents must ensure that their children go to school every day. If a child is ill, parents must inform the school before 8 am.

- **How much does school cost?**

Public schools are free of charge.

School district - Which school is responsible for my child?

□ **What is a school district?**

A school district is a specific area in a town or municipality. There is one school responsible for each place of residence. This school is called a Sprengelschule.

- Children have to go to the school that belongs to their place of residence.
- This only applies to **primary schools** and Mittelschulen.
- You cannot choose the school.
- This is different for public schools - parents and children can choose.
- Parents and children are also free to choose a secondary school or grammar school.

You can find more information on the topic of "[Sprenzel](#)" here.

Travel costs for the school bus

□ **Travel costs to school**

Some children have to travel far to school. In Dachau, parents can save money if:

- Children in grades 1 to 4 have to walk more than 2 kilometres to the Sprengelschule.
- Children in year 5 and above have to walk more than 3 kilometres to the nearest school.

In this case, parents can apply for a cost exemption for the journey to school.

□ **What does cost exemption for the journey to school mean?**

If your child has to walk or drive a long way to school, you can apply to the Dachau District Office to have the travel costs covered. This means that you will either receive a ticket or the money for the journey back.

□ **Where do I submit the application?**

The application is submitted to the Dachau District Office. The application is completed and sent online:

□ [Click here to go to the application page of the Dachau district office](#)

□ **How does the application work?**

- **Fill in online**
Enter the child's details (name, school, place of residence, etc.).
- **Upload photo**
You need a passport photo of the child. The face must be clearly recognisable.
- **Upload supporting documents**
Depending on the school or situation, you may need to upload other documents (e.g. school certificate).
- **Submit and print out the application**
After submitting the application, you must print it out and sign it.
- **Hand in the application to the school**
The signed application is then handed in to the school.
- **Receive your ticket**
If everything fits, you will receive your ticket by post.

School enrolment

□ **What does school enrolment mean?**

School enrolment is the day on which a child starts primary school for the first time. It is a special day for the child and the family - a new phase of life begins.

☐ **When does a child start school?**

The following applies in Bavaria:

- If a child turns six by 30 September, they must start school in the same year.
- Children born between 1 July and 30 September are called "corridor children". → Parents can decide whether the child starts school this year or next year.
- Children born after 30 September can apply to start school earlier if they are ready.

☐ **What happens before school enrolment?**

A language test is carried out in kindergarten before school enrolment ([language assessment](#)). Two years before starting school, a health test is carried out at the public health department ([school entrance examination](#)).

The school invites the parents to the school enrolment - usually in spring.

Sometimes there is a test or an interview to see if the child is ready for school.

If the child is not quite ready, school enrolment can be postponed for a year.

☐ **What documents do you need for school enrolment?**

The child must be registered before the first day of school. You will receive an invitation for this. The letter will explain exactly which documents you need to bring to school enrolment:

- Child's birth certificate → So that the school knows how old the child is.
- Proof of measles vaccination → In Germany, measles vaccination is compulsory for schoolchildren.
- Parents' identity card or passport → For identification at enrolment.
- Information sheet from the kindergarten (if available) → This shows how the child has developed. It is completed together with the parents.
- School registration form → This can be obtained directly from the school or on their website.

☐ **How does the school enrolment day work?**

The first day of school is often festive and cheerful:

- The children arrive at school with their parents.
- All children carry a school cone containing sweets, small gifts or school materials. The



parents have to make the school cone themselves.

- There is a welcome by the teachers and sometimes a short programme.
- The children then go into the classroom with their teacher.
- Parents are often allowed to join them for a short time before the lesson begins.
- Many families then go out to eat in a restaurant with friends and family.

Language assessment - German test for primary school

☐ **What is the language proficiency test (Sprachstandserhebung) ?**

The language proficiency test is a test that assesses how well a child speaks and understands German. This test takes place before the child starts school - in other words, before the child starts primary school.

□ **Why is there a language assessment?**

Language is very important for learning at school. If a child speaks German well, they can read, write and speak to others better. The language assessment helps to recognise children who still need help learning German. This means they receive support at an early stage before they start school.

□□ **Who has to take part?**

All children who live in Bavaria and will soon be starting school must take part in the language assessment. This also applies to so-called "corridor children", whose parents can decide whether they start school this year or next year.

□ **How does the language assessment work?**

- The children are invited by their primary school.
- There they take a language test called „BaSiS“. → This stands for "Bayerisches Screening des individuellen Sprachstands".
- The test is playful and child-friendly. → The children speak, listen and answer simple tasks.

□ **What happens after the test?**

- If the child speaks German well, everything is fine.
- If the child still needs help, they are sent to a preliminary German course. → This course takes place in a day care centre (e.g. kindergarten). → The child learns German better there - before starting school.

School entry examination - health examination for primary school

□ **What is the school entry examination?**

The school entrance examination is an examination for children who are about to start primary school. It takes place two years before they start school and is compulsory for all children in Bavaria.

□ **Why does this examination take place?**

The examination is intended to show

- Is the child healthy?
- Is the child ready for school?
- Does the child perhaps need special support?

The aim is to ensure that all children get off to a good start at school - regardless of where they come from or how they grew up2.

□ Who carries out the examination?

The examination is carried out by the public health department. Doctors who are familiar with children work there. They are also known as school doctors.

□ What is done during the examination?

The doctor looks at various things:

□ Physical health

- How well does the child see and hear?
- Is the child physically fit?
- Are there any health problems?

□ Development and thinking

- Can the child concentrate?
- Does it understand simple tasks?
- How does the child speak?

□ Behaviour and feelings

- Is the child curious?
- Can it interact with other children?
- Does it have self-confidence?

The examination is child-orientated and friendly. There are small tasks and games to make the child feel comfortable.

□ What do parents need to bring?

- The yellow examination booklet (U-booklet)
- Immunisation record (particularly important: measles vaccination)
- Parents' identity card or passport
- Sometimes: questionnaire that you fill out beforehand

□ What happens after the examination?

The parents receive feedback:

→ Everything OK? Then the child can start school.

→ Are there any difficulties? Then the parents receive tips and help.

At the end, the school decides whether the child should start school or wait another year.

School for children aged 6 to 11

▣ Primary school in Bavaria

All children in Bavaria go to primary school first. This is from the 1st to the 4th grade. Primary school must be in the municipality where the child lives.

▣ Children learn at primary school:

- Read
- writing
- Arithmetic

At the end of year 4 (in May), the children receive a special report card. The grades in this report decide which school the child goes to afterwards:

- Mittelschule: Grade 5 to 9 or 10
- Realschule Grade 5 to 10
- Gymnasium Grade 5 to 12 or 13

These schools are different. They have different subjects and a different learning level. More information about these schools can be found [here](#).

▣ Enrolment for primary school

Children who turn six by 30 June must attend school. Parents must register their child at the public primary school. The school must be in the correct school district ([Sprenghel](#)).

Children who turn six between 1 July and 30 September can also start school later. Parents must speak to the school beforehand. The school will then make a recommendation.

There is a map. This [map](#) shows the primary school districts in the town of Dachau. There you can see which primary school your child has to go to.

▣ Primary schools in Dachau

There are four primary schools in Dachau:

- **Grundschule an der Klosterstraße (Old Town)**, Klosterstraße 5
- **Augustenfeld primary school**, Geschwister-Scholl-Straße 4
- **Primary school on Anton-Günther-Straße (East)**, Anton-Günther-Straße 3
- **Primary school on Eduard-Ziegler-Straße (South)**, Eduard-Ziegler-Straße 1

Schools for children and young people aged 11 and over

After primary school, the children go to a secondary school. There are 3 different types of secondary school: Mittelschule, Realschule, Wirtschaftsschule, Gymnasium

You can discuss which school is best for your child with the teacher.

Here we present the secondary schools and where to find them in Dachau.

☐ **Secondary school (Mittelschule)**

Secondary school starts after primary school. It runs from year 5 to year 9 or 10.

In secondary school, children learn a lot for their professional life. They are well prepared for an apprenticeship.

☐ There are two secondary schools in Dachau:

- [Secondary school on Anton-Günther-Straße \(Dachau East\)](#)
- [Secondary school Dachau South](#)

☐ Dachau Süd secondary school offers the opportunity to complete the intermediate school leaving certificate. Talk to your child's teachers to find out whether this is possible.

☐ **S econdary school (Realschule)**

Realschule starts after primary school. Realschule runs from Year 5 to Year 10. Your child needs a grade point average of 2.66 or better in primary school.

☐ Grade bonus: Foreign children who have not attended a German primary school from Year 1 are allowed to attend Realschule or Gymnasium with an average of up to 3.33.

☐ The Realschule offers:

- A good education for a career
- Qualification: Secondary school leaving certificate (intermediate school leaving certificate)

☐ After secondary school you can:

- Do an apprenticeship in a company
- Attend a vocational college
- Go to a specialised secondary school and study later

☐ There is one secondary school in Dachau: [Dr.-Josef-Schwalber-Realschule Dachau](#)

☐ **Grammar school**

The grammar school starts after primary school. The grammar school runs from Year 5 to Year 13. It is a demanding school. Children have to learn well and be diligent.

☐ Prerequisite: average grade in primary school 2.33 or better.

- Grade bonus: Foreign children who have not attended a German primary school from Year 1 are allowed to attend Realschule or Gymnasium with an average of up to 3.33.
- Qualification: Abitur (general higher education entrance qualification). With the Abitur, you can study at a university.
- There are two grammar schools in Dachau:
 - [Josef-Effner-Gymnasium](#)
 - [Ignaz-Taschner-Gymnasium](#)

□ **Business school (Wirtschaftsschule)**

The business school is a special school. You learn normal subjects such as German, maths and English. You also learn a lot about business and office work.

- Qualification: Intermediate school leaving certificate (like Realschule)
- Special subjects:
 - Operational management and control
 - Economic geography
 - Training company
 - IT (computer work)

□□ Transfer to business school:

- After 6th or 7th grade from secondary school
 - Also from Realschule or Gymnasium
 - Sometimes after the 5th grade
- There is a business school in Dachau: Private Wirtschaftsschule Scheibner e.V.

This is a public school. You have to pay school fees there.

📍 Max-Mannheimer-Platz 1, 85221 Dachau

🌐 [www.wssc heibner.de](http://www.wssc-heibner.de)

All-day programmes for schoolchildren aged 11 and over

□ **All-day childcare options in Dachau**

In Dachau, there are various ways in which children can be looked after throughout the day:

1. all-day schooling

Lessons are spread throughout the day.
The children learn, do sports, music or art.
They eat lunch together.
There is no homework.

2. open all-day programme

The children first have normal lessons.
 Then there are activities such as sports, music or arts and crafts.
 The groups are mixed - children from different classes take part.
 Homework can also be done there.
 Lunch is served together.

☐ **Does your child go to primary school?** Then find out about daycare centre offers [here](#).

German classes for newly immigrated children and young people

☐ Learning German at school

☐ German lessons at primary school

- All primary schools help children who speak little or no German.
- At some primary schools, the children receive extra German lessons in small groups.
- This enables them to learn the language better and take part in normal lessons.

☐ German class from the age of 11

- Children and young people aged 11 and over who speak little or no German can attend a German class.
- These classes are available at some schools in Dachau.
- The children learn a lot of German there and are prepared for the normal class.
- They learn to express themselves better and gain more self-confidence.

☐ In Dachau, there are German classes at the [Anton-Günther-Straße secondary school \(MAG\)](#). ☐
 You can contact the school directly or the Dachau education authority.

☐ German classes at other schools

- There are also such classes at Realschulen and Gymnasien.
- Ask the school directly whether there is a German class there.

☐☐ German class for young people up to the age of 21

- There are vocational integration classes (BIK) for young people up to the age of 21 who attend a vocational school.
- These classes are for young people with a migration background who do not yet speak German well.
- They learn German there and are prepared for an apprenticeship or further schooling.

Schools for children with learning disabilities

□ What is a learning disability?

This means that the child has permanent problems with thinking and learning.

□□□ **Parents then ask themselves:** "Which school is good for my child?"

□ **Every child can go to a normal school.**

Normal schools are primary schools (1st to 4th grade) and secondary schools (from 5th grade).

□□ **Some children have a physical or mental disability.**


This can make learning at normal school difficult. If a child cannot read, write or learn well, they need a suitable solution.

□ **There are good counselling services:**

1. **does your child go to a [daycare centre](#)?**

Then talk to the nursery teachers. They will help you choose a school.

2. **does your child not go to a [daycare centre](#)?**

Then you can go to  [Schulamt](#) in Dachau. You will get help and good advice there. You can discuss the options with the staff.

□ **Important:** Get help. Everyone has a right to a good education.

□ **Do you have old certificates from your home country?** Have them translated. Bring them with you to meetings and medical appointments.

□ **There is a special consultation hour for children with a migration background in Munich:**

 [Consultation hours for children and young people with a migration background](#)

It is called the "Intercultural Consultation Hour" and is part of kbo. Children and young people receive good medical and psychological help there. The doctors pay attention to their culture and religion. Information is available in many languages. If you need help understanding, a translator can come in.

Vocational school

□ What is a vocational school?

Vocational school teaches you how to do a particular job. You work in a company and also go to school. At school, you learn everything you need for your work. You go to vocational school if you are 15 years old or older.

□ Vocational school in Dachau

There is a vocational school in Dachau. It is called Staatliche Berufsschule Dachau - Nikolaus-Lehner-Schule.

📍 Heinrich-Neumaier-Platz 1, 85221 Dachau
☎ +49 (0) 8131907430
✉ verwaltung@berufsschule-dachau.de
🌐 www.berufsschule-dachau.de

📄 What programmes are available?

1. Vocational preparation year (BVJ)

- For young people without a school-leaving certificate or without a training place
- Full-time lessons with work placements
- Teachers help with learning
- Goal: Preparation for an apprenticeship

2nd classes for vocational integration

- For young people who speak little or no German
- Preparation for training or further schooling
- For young people from abroad aged between 16 and 21 (up to 25 in special cases)

3. vocational school for childcare

- Training to become a child carer
- Duration: 2 years
- Full-time tuition

4. specialised academy for social pedagogy

- Training to become a nursery school teacher
- Duration: 3 years
- Afterwards you can work in daycare centres or with children and young people

💡 If you do an apprenticeship, you also have to go to vocational school. This is compulsory as long as you are under the age of 21. You have to go to school until the end of the school year in which you turn 21.

If you already have an Abitur or Fachhochschulreife, you do not have to go to vocational school.

Dachau Adult Education Centre (VHS)

📄 What is a VHS?

The VHS is the adult education centre. It's a school for adults. People can learn there voluntarily - without being forced to. You can choose what you want to learn. For example

- a new language
- something about computers
- cooking, sewing or dancing
- knowledge for your job

- Improve your reading, writing or maths

□ At the VHS, people learn together in groups. You meet new people and sometimes even make friends. The courses cost money, but usually not much. There are often discounts.

□ **What does VHS Dachau offer?**

VHS Dachau is a non-profit school for further education. It offers many courses for everyone in Dachau and the surrounding area. For example:

- Language learning: English, Italian, German and more
- Creative courses: Painting, writing, music
- Health & exercise: Yoga, fitness, cookery
- Professional development: computers, communication, job application training
- Courses for young people: The "young VHS"
- Integration courses: Learning German for everyday life and work

VHS Dachau always has a new programme. It is worth checking the programme online regularly. There are courses in the morning, afternoon or evening - also online.

📍 Dr.-Engert-Str. 5, 85221 Dachau

☎ +49 (0) 81313378640

🌐 <https://vhs-dachau.de/>

□ **Special features:**

- You can register online or on site.
- There are also educational holidays and special events.
- If you want, you can even become a course leader yourself!