HOW DOES THE GERMAN SCHOOL SYSTEM WORK?

Do you have children of school age? Here you can get an overview of the different levels of education and school types, and find some helpful tips on how you can support your child in order for them to enjoy a successful education in Germany:



SCHOOLING HAS ALREADY BEGUN

MY CHILD IS A. < 5 YEARS OLD **B. > 5 YEARS OLD**

RECOGNITION AND PLACEMENT

For information about the procedure and the responsible state certificate authority, see www.anabin.kmk.org

If not yet graduated, your child can be enrolled without an official recognition procedure. The respective school administration is responsible for this process upon consultation with the school authority. Classification is usually decided after a trial lesson.

PREPARING FOR SCHOOL

CHILD DAY CARE

Children from 3 years (or even younger in some cases) can attend a nursery school or day care facility (Kita). Here your child can make social contacts with other children and learn German effortlessly.

Overview of childcare options at www.bildungsserver.de

Overview of educational concepts and day care facility finder at www.kita.de

General information and checklist for day care facility selection at www.bamf.de

PROGRAMMES FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS

NATIVE LANGUAGE **SUPPORT**

Foreign language skills can also be beneficial in school and at

www.bamf.de

work. Therefore, the native language of your child should also be supported.

Information at

For families with a migrant background, there are special offers to help children and parents familiarise themselves with the German school system and learn the language.

German language and integration courses at www.bamf.de

Educational services for parents at www.bildungsserver.de

Language support options for parents at www.familienhandbuch.de

REGISTRATION AND ENROLMENT TEST

SPECIAL SUPPORT NEEDS

In the case of a mental, your child will attend a special decide in a special procedure whether there are special

Which primary school is assigned to your place of residence or whether you can choose it yourself, as well as information about school enrolment can be found out from the school authority, the municipality or on the website of the Ministry of Culture of your state. When registering, you will also get an appointment for the enrolment test with the

THE ENROLMENT TEST

school doctor.

This test is designed to help determine whether your child needs additional support in an area prior to enrolment. The school doctor tests physical development, mental abilities and, especially in children with an immigration background, German language skills.

PRIMARY EDUCATION - PRIMARY SCHOOL

INITIATIVE

You can actively contribute to shaping everyday school life, for example by joining school boards like the parent's council.

Depending on the state, primary school lasts 4 or 6 years. These are your child's first years at school be involved with this experience! In order to see how he or she copes with class and classmates, it is important to take advantage of offers such as parent's evenings and parental leave.

In the final year, it will be decided how their school career will continue. The primary school teachers give a recommendation based on grades and personal assessment of the child.

CHOOSING THE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Have an in-depth discussion with your child and their teachers on which type of school would be most suitable. In addition, some federal states allow the child to attend trial lessons.

Information about the various types of schools can be found at www.kmk.org and www.bmbf.de Interactive graphics about the types of schools can be found at www.bpb.de

Checklist for school selection at www.bamf.de

SECONDARY EDUCATION

certificate after grade 9 (Hauptschulabschluss/Quali), general education school leaving certificate after grade 10 (Realschulabschluss) and higher education entrance qualification (Abitur). In some schools (e.g. comprehensive schools), it is possible to acquire two or all of the qualifications.

SECONDARY EDUCATION I - SECONDARY SCHOOLS

ARE YOU ON THE RIGHT PATH?

If it turns out that your child is challenged too much or too little at the chosen school, there is always the possibility of switching to another type of school. To find out how your child is coping in school, it can be helpful to supervise your child when they do their homework.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL (GYMNASIUM)

MITTLERE REIFE Grammar school up to 10th

grade, no exam

SECONDARY SCHOOL (REALSCHULE)

GENERAL EDUCATION

SCHOOL LEAVING

CERTIFICATE

Realschulabschluss – exam after completing 10th grade

LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL (HAUPTSCHULE)

GENERAL EDUCATION SCHOOL LEAVING **CERTIFICATE**

Hauptschulabschluss or qualified secondary school leaving certificate after the 9th grade

> THE "QUALI" In some federal states, there is also a so-called qualified secondary school leaving certificate. This refers to an exam held at the end of the

9th grade. This exam is not

compulsory, but it makes it easier to find an apprenticeship at a company.

SECONDARY EDUCATION II -A. DEGREE COURSE OR – B. PROFESSIONAL TRAINING?

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

(DUAL OR PURELY ACADEMIC) All school graduates are entitled to professional training

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR TRAINING

If your child does not live at home during their education, they can apply for student BAföG (a student grant under the Federal Training Assistance Act). The same applies for further educational measures. However, half of the student BAföG must be repaid. Information on requirements and regulations for

Requirement: grammar school attendance up to 10th grade or a general education school leaving certificate after grade 10

ADVANCED LEVEL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

AND TRANSITIONAL SCHOOLS (E.G. FOS)

chances on the job market.

TRANSITIONAL SCHOOLS (E.G. BOS) Even after the training, it is still possible to obtain a higher school qualification and pursue a course of studies. A university degree can improve your

migrants can be found at

GENERAL HIGHER EDUCATION ENTRANCE QUALIFICATION (ABITUR)

SUBJECT-SPECIFIC HIGHER **EDUCATION ENTRANCE QUALIFICATION (FACHABITUR)**

Europäische Union



This project is co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).