

The School System

Information for parents, children and young people

The school system – where can I get an overview?

Dresden's school system includes municipal, state-run and independent schools. These cover every level and type of education:

- Primary schools
- Secondary schools
- Grammar schools
- General and vocational special schools
- Vocational training schools (vocational schools and vocational colleges, technical schools and technical colleges, vocational grammar schools) and
- Schools for adult education (evening schools)

The City of Dresden provides further information at www.dresden.de/schulen. This page also includes a database summarising the most important information about all of the schools in Dresden, so you can search by school type, area, profile, funding source and/or vocation to help you choose the right one for you or your child. Free internet access is provided at the Dresden Municipal Libraries.

Starting school – what do I need to know?

Starting school is a big change, and one that comes with a lot of questions. What age should my child start school? When and where do I enrol them? Can children with and without disabilities be educated together? What funding is available? Whether you want to know more about school enrolment, before and after school care, healthcare, learning difficulties, school problems, integration, insurance, school transport, class trips, exemption from school fees and learning material costs, compulsory education, participation opportunities or any other topics, there is plenty of information on the City's website. Comprehensive answers to frequently asked questions are provided in the "Questions and Answers" section.

For further information on enrolling in school and the City's before and after school care, please see www.dresden.de/schulbeginn and www.dresden.de/kita.

After primary school – what are the options?

Different paths at the end of the fourth year – which to take? The decision as to which kind of school a child should attend after primary school is principally a matter for their parents or carers. However, their primary school teachers and the secondary schools themselves will be able to provide support and detailed information to help you decide whether a secondary school or a grammar school is right for them.

Which foreign languages does the new school offer? Which compulsory subject does the school specialise in? Concrete information and advice is available on "Tage der offenen Tür" open days.

Children with diagnosed special educational needs can attend either a general education school with inclusive teaching or a school especially for special needs children.

Schools with specialist profiles

- **Languages** Romain-Rolland-Gymnasium
- **Music** Carl-Maria-von-Weber-Gymnasium
- **Mathematics and science** Martin-Andersen-Nexö-Gymnasium
- **Sport** Sportoberschule, Sportgymnasium
- **Dance** Palucca Schule Dresden
- **International qualifications** Dresden International School, Romain-Rolland-Gymnasium, Bertolt-Brecht-Gymnasium
- **Independent schools** offer a varied education with alternative learning and teaching methods.

Finished with school – where next?

During your final years of school, your focus will move towards your career and study plans. How do you want to continue learning after school? What goals appeal to you? How can you achieve them? There are plenty of sources of information and advice available to help you plan for the next stage.

- Berufsinformationszentrum Dresden
www.arbeitsagentur.de
- JugendBeratungsCenter
www.dresden.de/jugendberatungscenter

- Amt für Wirtschaftsförderung
www.dresden.de/bosto
- Schulverwaltungsamt
www.dresden.de/bsz
- Bildungsberatung
www.vhs-dresden.de

No school-leaving qualification – what now?

No school-leaving qualification and no apprenticeship? You still have the option to apply for a *Berufsvorbereitungsjahr* – a vocational preparation year. This course is designed to give you practical experience in two fields as well as a school-leaving qualification. This in turn will make it easier to find an apprenticeship. For more information, please see

www.dresden.de/bvj.

You can also retake your school-leaving examinations at an adult education school. The evening secondary school and grammar school offer options for you to take *Hauptschulabschluss*, *Realschulabschluss* and *Abitur* level qualifications. For more information, please see www.dresden.de/schulen.

Participating in school life – where can I get financial aid?

Support is available to children and young people from families with low incomes as part of the government's education and participation package. Parents apply for this through the City. The funding ensures that these children have the same opportunities to participate in school and leisure activities. Funding can be provided to cover lunches, school transport, class trips, tutoring and learning assistance, educational materials, sport, music, dance and other leisure activities.

For more information, please see

www.dresden.de/bildungspaket.

Questions and contact

For questions regarding school buildings, equipment, structures and other administrative matters:

Landeshauptstadt Dresden

Schulverwaltungsamt

Telefon (03 51) 4 88 92 01

Telefax (03 51) 4 88 92 03

E-Mail: schulverwaltungsamt@dresden.de

For questions regarding lesson organisation, class formation, curriculum fulfilment and other topics relating to school education:

Landesamt für Schule und Bildung

Standort Dresden

Telefon (03 51) 8 43 90

Telefax (03 51) 8 43 93 01

E-Mail: poststelle@sbad.smk.sachsen.de

For further information on the school system in the Free State of Saxony, education network planning at the City of Dresden, facts and figures, laws and regulations and the use of school sports halls, please see www.dresden.de/schulen.

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