

Compulsory education

School attendance

The law states that all children and young people who live in the Free State of Saxony must attend school. This means that they must both attend classes regularly and participate in any other activities as required by their school.

When children must start school

Children who have turned six years old by 30 June of the current calendar year (enrolment year) are required to attend school.

They must be registered to attend a Grundschule (primary school) within their school district or an independent school, ready to begin a year one class in the autumn of that year (regular enrolment).

Children who will be six years old by 30 September of the current calendar year (enrolment year) and have already been registered at a Grundschule in their district by their parents must also begin attending school in the autumn of that year.

Children who will not turn six years old until after 30 September of the current calendar year (enrolment year) may still be able to attend a Grundschule at their parents' request if they can show that they are intellectually and physically able to do so (early enrolment).

End of compulsory education

Normally children must attend school until they are 18 years old. Apprentices must attend their Berufsschule (vocational school) until they complete their training programme.

Special educational guidance

Our special educational guidance service helps children and young people who do not speak German as their first language to integrate into daily school life. The Dresden Regional Office of the Landesamt für Schule und Bildung in (State Office for School and Education) provides parents and children with information on their educational options within the Free State of Saxony, and offers personal advice on children's school careers.

Staff in the Dresden Office will also assess whether children will need to attend a special preparation class and find out whether they want to continue developing their native language skills.

As parents, you must register your school-age children with the Landesamt's special educational guidance service in Dresden so that they can begin attending school.

You have to **register online**:

<https://www.schulportal.sachsen.de/bildungsberatung>

That for the following documents are needed:

- ID or passport of the parent or carer who is registering the child
- The child's ID or passport
- The child's registration certificate from the Bürgerbüro in Dresden (Meldebescheinigung)
- The last school report that the child received in their home country

For further questions **after registration**, you can write an email to

daz-bildungsberatung-d@lasub.smk.sachsen.de
or

03 51/ 84 39-113

Contact:

Landesamt für Schule und Bildung,
Dresden Office, Abteilung 2 - Schulen
Großenhainer Straße 92,
01127 Dresden

Consultation hours: Tuesday 13 pm - 18 pm

Preparation classes

All children of all nationalities who either cannot speak German at all or cannot speak it well enough to participate in normal lessons must first attend a preparation class. In this class, they learn German as a second language and are prepared for moving on to regular classes.

A support teacher helps the children and young people to integrate into school life.

Gradual integration

In general education schools, pupils start by attending only the preparation classes for a few weeks before moving on to spend a few hours per week in their future regular classes as well. This gradual integration normally starts in subjects where language is not as important.

The more contact the pupils have with their future classmates, and the more their German language skills improve, the more time they will be able to spend in their normal classes.

This gradual process towards full integration will be different for each child, but is normally completed after 18 months. After this, pupils will follow the customary class schedule. They will continue to have the same educational opportunities as any other child.

Native language classes

Growing up speaking two or more languages is a gift, and we want to support these children in developing their skills. For this reason, the Free State of Saxony provides optional lessons in these children's native languages where resources are available.

Information about these classes can be requested through the schools.

Medical checks at school

Being healthy is essential for children to learn. For this reason, children are required to have health check-ups with their school doctor.

Doctors from the Health Authority carry out **pre-school check-ups** on all children the year before they start school.

Check-ups start once children are registered for school, and there is a period of a few months during which appointments are available. Appointments are offered during the school registration process. At least one parent or carer must accompany the child to their check-up, which will normally take place at a Children's and Young People's Health Service Clinic.

These check-ups include a general physical examination (like a normal health screening) and play-based exercises to determine the child's level of development. Parents also have the opportunity to ask any questions they may have regarding their child starting school and their child's development.

Additional check-ups will be offered throughout the child's time at school.

If a child is often absent from school or does not attend school for long periods due to illness, the Children's and Young People's Health Service may be asked to advise and assess the child.

As parents, you are welcome to contact the Health Authority if you have any questions regarding health and school attendance.

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