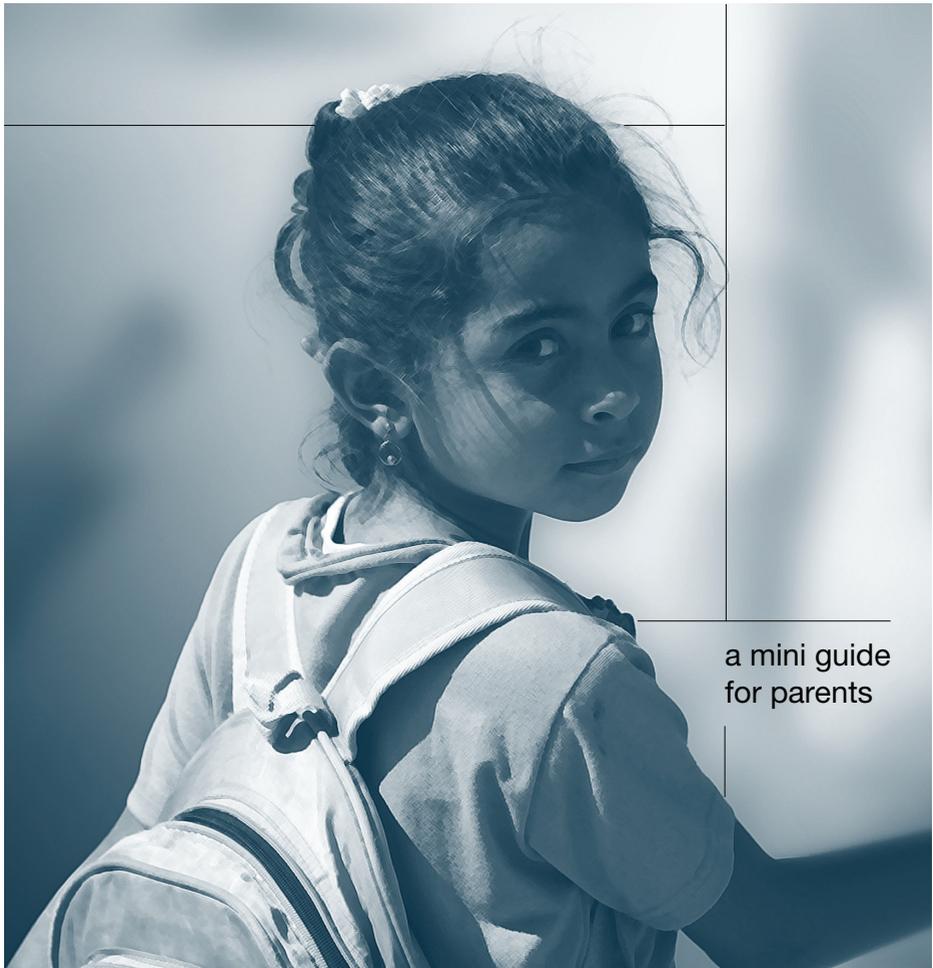


How does education *help* *newly arrived children?*



a mini guide
for parents

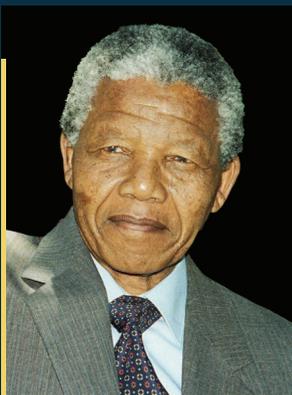
What is education and why is it so important for children?

Education means the process of facilitating learning or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits. Educational methods include teaching, training, storytelling, discussion and directed research.

Education gives one a knowledge of the world around them, it helps to develop a perspective on life and teaches one to build opinions and have points of view on things in life. Education enables one to interpret things and make sense of the world. Every child and adult should have access to education and to the possibilities and opportunities it provides.

WHY IS EDUCATION SO IMPORTANT

Because a person can acquire...

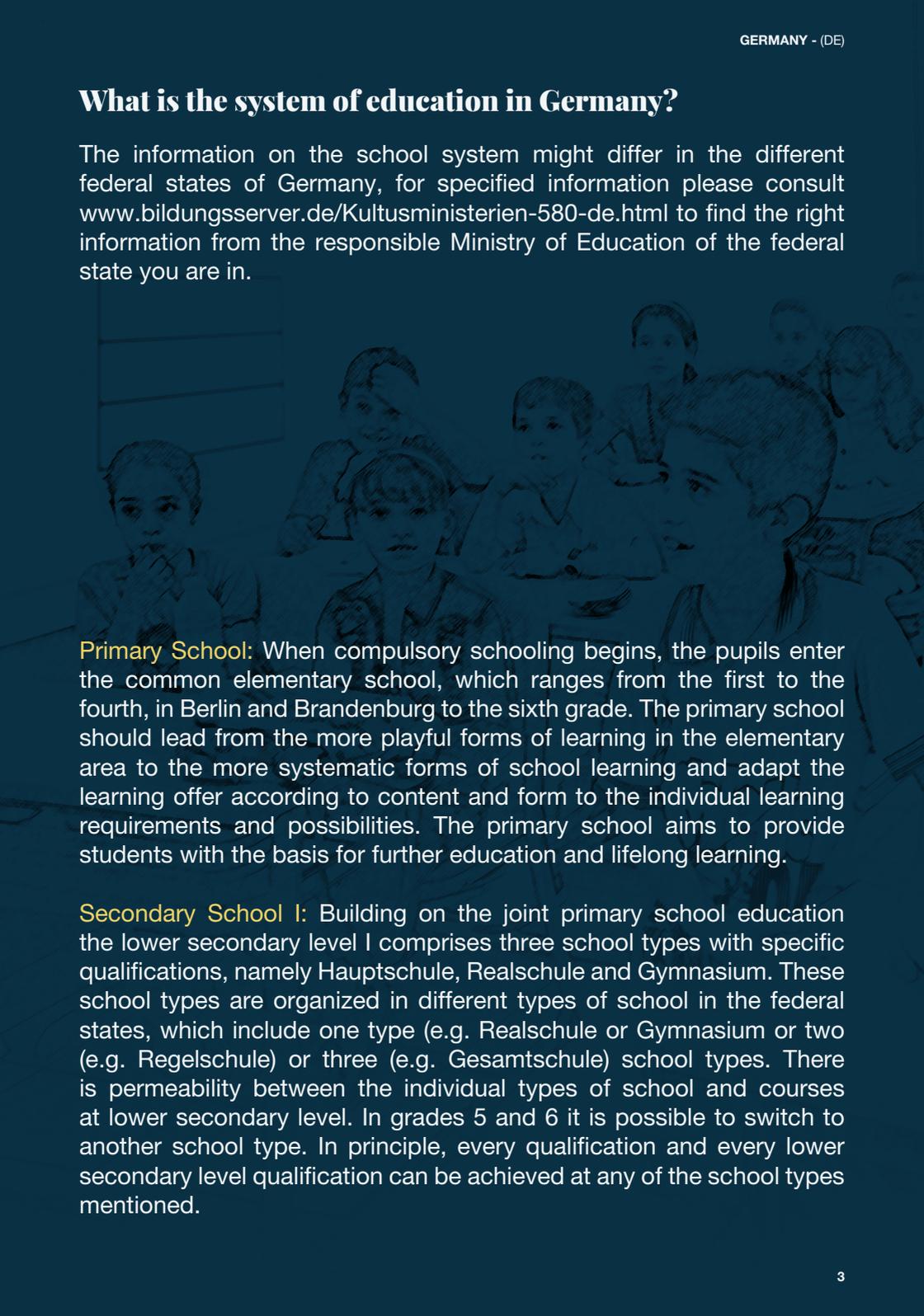


“Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world.”

NELSON MANDELA

What is the system of education in Germany?

The information on the school system might differ in the different federal states of Germany, for specified information please consult www.bildungsserver.de/Kultusministerien-580-de.html to find the right information from the responsible Ministry of Education of the federal state you are in.



Primary School: When compulsory schooling begins, the pupils enter the common elementary school, which ranges from the first to the fourth, in Berlin and Brandenburg to the sixth grade. The primary school should lead from the more playful forms of learning in the elementary area to the more systematic forms of school learning and adapt the learning offer according to content and form to the individual learning requirements and possibilities. The primary school aims to provide students with the basis for further education and lifelong learning.

Secondary School I: Building on the joint primary school education the lower secondary level I comprises three school types with specific qualifications, namely Hauptschule, Realschule and Gymnasium. These school types are organized in different types of school in the federal states, which include one type (e.g. Realschule or Gymnasium or two (e.g. Regelschule) or three (e.g. Gesamtschule) school types. There is permeability between the individual types of school and courses at lower secondary level. In grades 5 and 6 it is possible to switch to another school type. In principle, every qualification and every lower secondary level qualification can be achieved at any of the school types mentioned.

Secondary School II: The lower secondary education courses - as far as the general education area is concerned - are continued in the upper secondary level at Gymnasium and Gesamtschulen. Admission is subject to the intermediate school leaving certificate with authorization to attend the upper secondary school level. The duration of schooling until the general university entrance qualification is 12 or 13 school years.

School Attendance Policy:

Number of absences: There is no defined number of accepted absences. Parents are required to write excuse notes for their children and if necessary, add a note from the doctor. Children can only be absent from school because of family or health reasons.

Reporting procedure of absences: In Germany, education is compulsory for children who complete their sixth year of life until the 30th September of the current year. Pupils are obligated to attend school for at least 10 years of primary and secondary school.

School Hours: The school hours differ according to school level and school. Please consult with the school your child is signed up to.

Public Holidays: The public holidays differ between the federal states and shift from year to year. Please see the following website for updates: www.schulferien.org

School Enrolment & Registration: All parents of school-age children are informed in writing about the application process and required documents by the school authorities. Registration period: By the 15th November of each year, all children who are required to attend school the following year must be registered.

Frequency of Parent Visits: Parents' visits are individually scheduled for approx. twice a year.

Rights and responsibilities of newly arrived children in education

Compulsory school attendance and the right to attend school are fundamentally regulated in each federal state's own school laws. The educational mandate of the school is derived from Article 7 of the Basic Law (Grundgesetz). According to Art. 7 paragraph 1, the entire school system is under the supervision of the Republic of Germany.

Compulsory schooling is to be fulfilled at a public school or a recognized private school. Depending on the federal state, compulsory schooling begins on the 5th to 7th year of life on a key date (e.g. June 30); enrolment in primary school can be postponed by attending a school kindergarten or replaced by enrolment in a special needs school. The duration of compulsory schooling is twelve years, of which nine years are compulsory full-time school (general compulsory school) and three years compulsory part-time school (compulsory school); compulsory part-time school is suspended if a full-time school is attended. If no vocational training follows or another school is attended, full-time schooling is ten years (basic vocational training year); compulsory education ends at the age of 18 (some federal states up to the age of 21) if there is no apprenticeship.

Compulsory schooling not only includes regular and punctual school attendance, but also participation in lessons and other school events as well as doing homework.

How can parents support their children?

Parents play a central role in the school success of children and adolescents. Good cooperation between school and home, which leads to mutual understanding, is an important factor of success. Parents and school are closely linked by the children. The children talk about their school experiences at home every day and bring family life back to school. The upbringing and education of children is the common goal of legal guardians and teachers. In cooperation and shared responsibility, they fulfill the educational mandate. The common goal of parents and school is the best support of each individual child. It should develop its skills, thrive in professional life and be able to participate in social life. While the parents are responsible for education, maintenance, care and education, the school must impart school knowledge and skills without neglecting their educational mandate.



What are the support programs for newly arrived families and their children?

LaKI: “Checklist for migration and school” (http://www.kommunale-integrationszentren-nrw.de/sites/default/files/public/system/downloads/checkliste_einwanderung_und_schule_internet.pdf)

- Tool for intercultural lesson- and school development in the field of migrant children
- Suggests successful ways of integration in schools and gives impulses for further development

Program: “Backpackschool”

(<http://www.kommunale-integrationszentren-nrw.de/rucksack-schule-0>)

- Language education and education of parents
- Offers a comprehensive concept of practical and specific guidance, providing material in German and the native language to support parents with migration background and their children

QUA-LiS: Package of material “School and migration”

(<https://www.qua-lis.nrw.de/qualis/aktuelles/das-materialpaket-schule-und-zuwanderung-jetzt-online.html>)

- Available online, materials (templates, guidelines, etc.) for teachers and pedagogues, pupils as well as parents and legal guardians

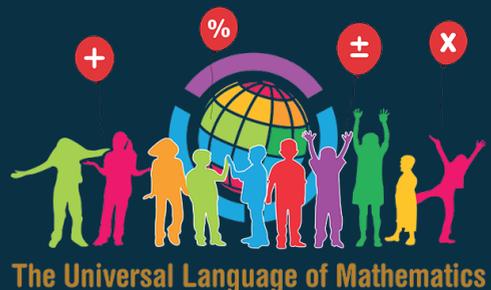
Materials available in various languages (Bulgarian, Farsi, French and Russian)

How can ULM Project help newly arrived children?

We believe every single child can make a big difference in future, and we want them to believe their potentials. The aim of the Universal Language of Mathematics Project (ULM) is not only supporting newly arrived children academically, but also increasing their motivation for success in their school lives. We know that most of the students finds Mathematics the most difficult subject, especially when it is learnt in another language. We want to change this belief. This project will show them every student can do mathematics. We eliminated the language barrier for them, and prepared mathematic books with less words and more fun. We used colors, pictures, and shapes to teach them mathematics in the same level as native students in their classes. We also gave instructions of the questions in German, English and Arabic. So, parents can easily help their children while their learning journey. We believe that the ULM Project will make this journey motivating and fun for newly arrived children.

www.ulmproject.com

**ULM
PROJECT**



The Universal Language of Mathematics