

The education system in Germany

from primary school to A-levels



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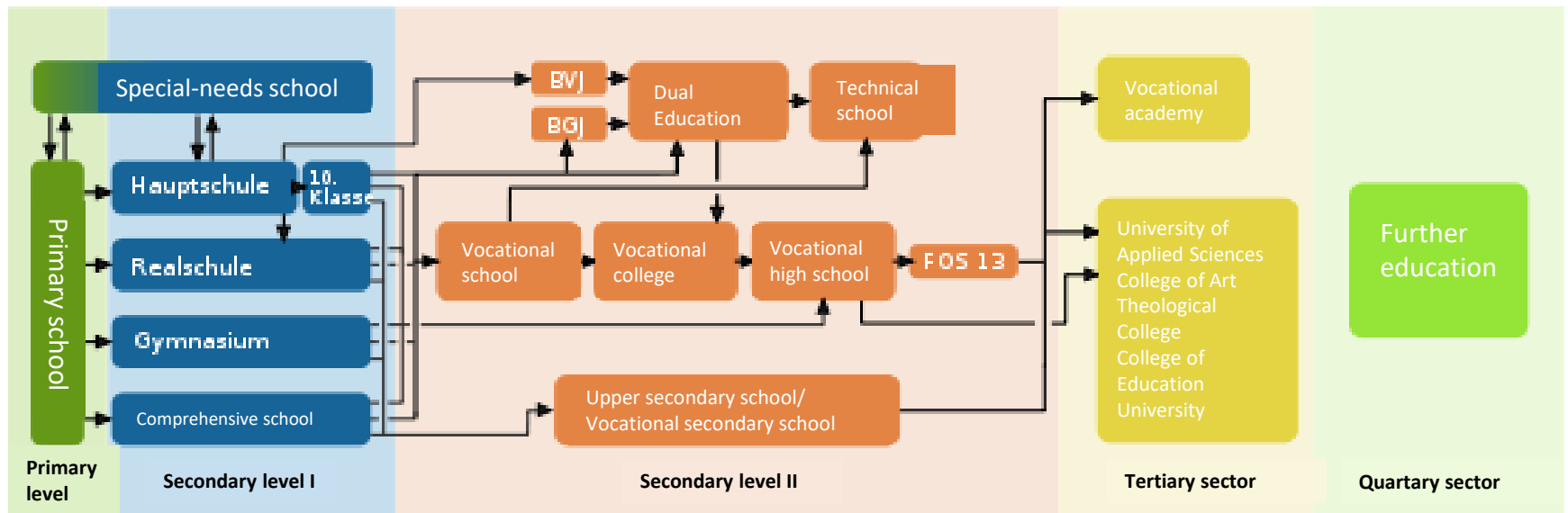
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Praxis für interkulturelle Psychotherapie

An overview of the education system

Lifelong learning



Early education and preschool

- Attendance at kindergarten (Kita) and preschool is voluntary in Germany
- In the Kita children develop their social skills
- Developing and learning of the German language
- Possibilities of support e.g. through integration status

Primary level

Primary/Elementary school

- School attendance from the age of 6 without postponement
- 10 years of compulsory education
- In Berlin and Brandenburg, elementary school covers 6 years (in other federal states 4 years)
- In Berlin and Brandenburg, children can switch from elementary school to high school

Elementary school registration

- Parents will be notified by mail from the school office with the date and name of the school
- In case of other wishes such as bilingual schools, the school office will be informed.
- Submitting an application for changing schools
- Health examination for enrollment in school (in Berlin, the examination usually takes place at the health office - examination of age-appropriate development)
- Zuckertütenfest and preparation for enrollment in school.



Course of the elementary school

- No grades are given in the first two years (verbal assessment).
- In Berlin there is the model SAPH or Jül (school starting phase-children of the 1st and 2nd grade are assigned in one group)
- The attendance of SAPH is limited to three years
- Attendance in the third year is not counted towards the duration of compulsory schooling



Course of the elementary school

- Transfer to the next grade is the norm
- Learning deficits are compensated for by support measures and not by repeating the entire school year.
- Classes are concentrated on German and mathematics.
- Complemented by learning areas such as science, music
- Starting in the third grade, foreign language learning begins.



Good to know

- The elementary school is the first obligatory socialization instance outside the family.
- When registering at school, parents can apply for a certificate of need from the Youth Welfare Office (Jugendamt). Then they can register the child for an after-school care place.



Secondary level I

- The secondary school comprises the orientation level and the intermediate level of the high school.
- The secondary school ends with the lower secondary school leaving certificate (BBR, eBBR or MSA)
- The MSA entitles the student to enter the “gymnasiale Oberstufe” (secondary level II)
- The final qualification depends on the student's academic performance and the teachers' assessment.

Secondary Level I

- The 10th school year marks the end of compulsory education.
- Depending on the degree (BBR, eBBR or MSA), the students have access to training.
- The MSA opens up access to vocational training, specialized upper secondary schools with specialized baccalaureate (OSZ), and specialized vocational schools.
- The Fachoberschule and Fachgymnasien are strongly vocationally oriented, but also leave open the path to higher education.



Gymnasium

- The grammar school provides the fastest way to the school-leaving exam (A-level/Abitur)
- The school continuously tests the performance of the students
- Pupils with weak performance are referred to another course of education
- Basic component: learning two foreign languages
- Direct access to all types of vocational training, technical college or university studies

