

Explanation Overview „The school system of Saxony“

Early childhood education and care (Frühkindliche Bildung, Erziehung und Betreuung)

Education and care for the children in preschool time.

Primary school (Grundschule)

This is the first school every child is attending. At the age of 6 the children visit the first class, at the age of 9 or 10 they leave primary school.

General special support school (Allgemeinbildende Förderschule)

This is a special school for children who have certain learning difficulties or a disease or other limitations. In this school they provide special lessons and give more help and support than in other schools.

Middleschool/secondary school (Mittelschule/Oberschule)

The middleschool (now called „Oberschule“) can be visited after primary school. It takes 5 to 6 years. In middleschool you can earn the so called „Hauptschulabschluss“, the qualifying Hauptschulabschluss or the “Realschulabschluss”.

Grammar school (Gymnasium)

Children who achieved a certain performance in primary school are allowed to visit the gymnasium. It takes 6 years, up to the 12th class. The graduation in gymnasium is called “Abitur”.

Graduation in secondary modern school (Hauptschulabschluss)

The Hauptschulabschluss you can get after 9 school years (Oberschule, special profile) and an examination. If you achieved a certain performance in this examination, you are able to get the so called qualifying Hauptschulabschluss.

Graduation in middleschool (Realschulabschluss)

The Realschulabschluss you earn at the Oberschule after 10 school years and a passed exam.

Abitur

This is the graduation on the gymnasium. You can earn it after 12 school years and an exam.

Special support vocational school (Berufsbildende Förderschule)

This is a special school in which pupils (from 16) with limitations can learn a simple occupation (e.g. assistant cook or shop assistant).

Vocational school (Berufsfachschule)

Here you can learn an occupation. It takes you two to three years. It is also called „school vocational training“, because pupils (from 16) only visit school and are not working in a company. Frequently they have work placements.

Vocational school for dual vocational training (Berufsschule)

Here you can learn an occupation. This school is part of the so called “dual vocational training”. The pupils (from 16) visit the Berufsschule and work in a training company. It takes two to three and a half years.

Technical college (Fachoberschule)

In this school you can earn the „Fachabitur“, a special form of Abitur. There are different directions/profiles in this school (e.g. health or design). With the Fachabitur you can study on a Fachhochschule or Berufsakademie. The Fachoberschule normally takes 2 years.

Vocational grammar school (Berufliches Gymnasium)

Here you can earn the Abitur within 3 years. The Realschulabschluss is required. Similar to the Fachoberschule you can choose between certain directions/profiles, e.g. Gymnasium for technic and economics.

Professional school (Fachschule)

A school you can attend after you finished your vocational training. It is for further qualification.

Institute (Fachhochschule)

At the Fachhochschule you can study certain subjects. Here you have obligate timetables and (similar to school) regular work placements.

Vocational college (Berufsakademie)

The Berufsakademie is a mixture of studies and occupation. In most cases you work half a year and study half a year. Therefore you need an employment contract with a company.

University (Universität)

At the university you study to earn the Diplom, Staatsexamen or the Bachelor/Master. With these qualifications you can work as a scientist or in a highly qualified job like physician or teacher.