

Education in Bavaria

The Free State of Bavaria is one of 16 states in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Bavaria is the largest and oldest state in Germany. With over 1,000 years of history, Bavaria's cultural heritage is very much alive today and continues to define the region and its inhabitants. The face of Bavaria is unmistakable and at the same time inextricably bound in German and European culture and history.

Each state in Germany is responsible for forming and implementing its own educational policy. Annual comparative studies regularly confirm that Bavaria boasts one of the best educational systems in Germany.



For personal consultation, contact the State School Advisory Board

► www.schulberatung.bayern.de



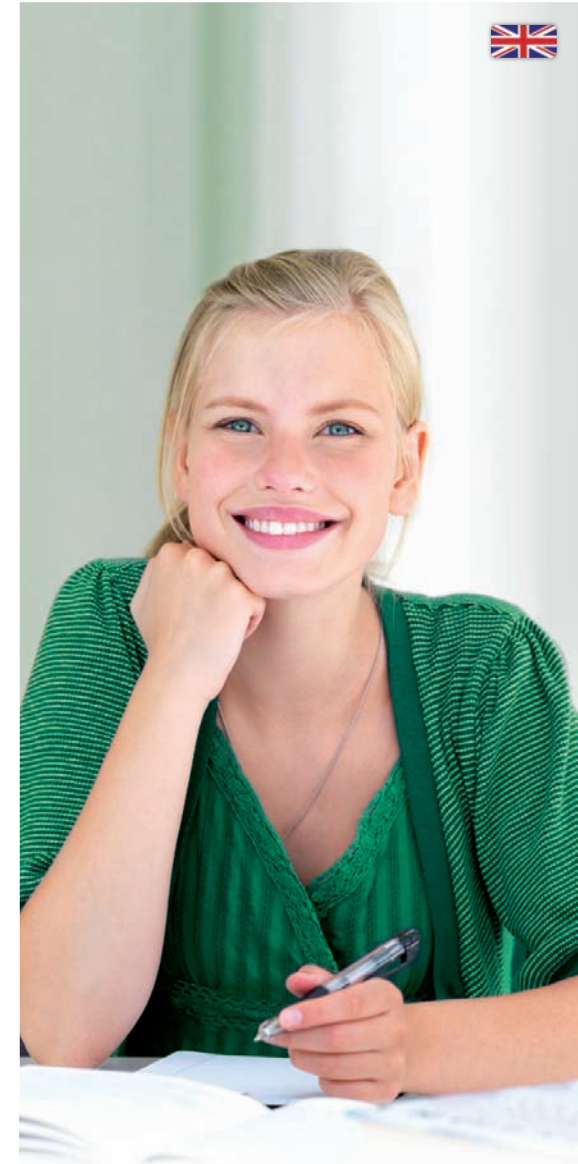
► www.km.bayern.de/english

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The Bavarian school system

Bavaria has a flexible and multifaceted school system. Every child begins their academic career with numerous educational paths to choose from. There are 13 different types of schools with various areas of focus, requirements, goals and speeds.

There are more than 6,100 schools in Bavaria. These fall into three main categories: schools of general education, vocational schools and schools of adult education. If you are looking for a suitable school near your place of residence, we recommend searching the Bavarian school database at

► www.km.bayern.de/schulsuche

As a rule, every student is eligible to enter the next higher academic level after receiving a school-leaving certificate. Based on the principle of permeability, each secondary school is allowed to award its graduates an intermediate school-leaving certificate. Therefore, when a child leaves primary school and is placed into a secondary school, the child's educational path through the school system is by no means set in stone. When parents and children decide on what path to take, they should bear in mind that it's always possible to switch to a different type of school at a later time.

Parents are responsible for choosing the educational path suited to the specific needs and abilities of their child. This decision should be based on:

- personal **goals**,
- the child's current **academic performance** and
- the **requirement profile** of each type of school.



The teaching staff at primary school help parents make this decision through ongoing consultation and support, as do the primary school teachers at secondary schools (Realschule and Gymnasium) who serve as guidance counselors in the transfer process. Teacher advisors, school psychologists and the State School Advisory Boards can also help parents decide which educational path is best for their child.

The advising and support phase begins at the preschool level. **Primary school** is the first general school for all school-age children. At the end of primary school (fourth grade), pupils enter a secondary school of their choice, i.e. either a **Mittelschule** (general, vocationally oriented secondary school for non-university bound pupils), **Realschule** (professionally oriented secondary school) or **Gymnasium** (university-preparatory secondary school). As of the seventh grade, students may transfer to a business school (**Wirtschaftsschule**).

A child is permitted to switch to another type of school if his/her academic achievement develops accordingly. Each school-leaving certificate opens the door to new academic paths and connections.

After receiving a Mittelschule school-leaving certificate, the pupil may begin:

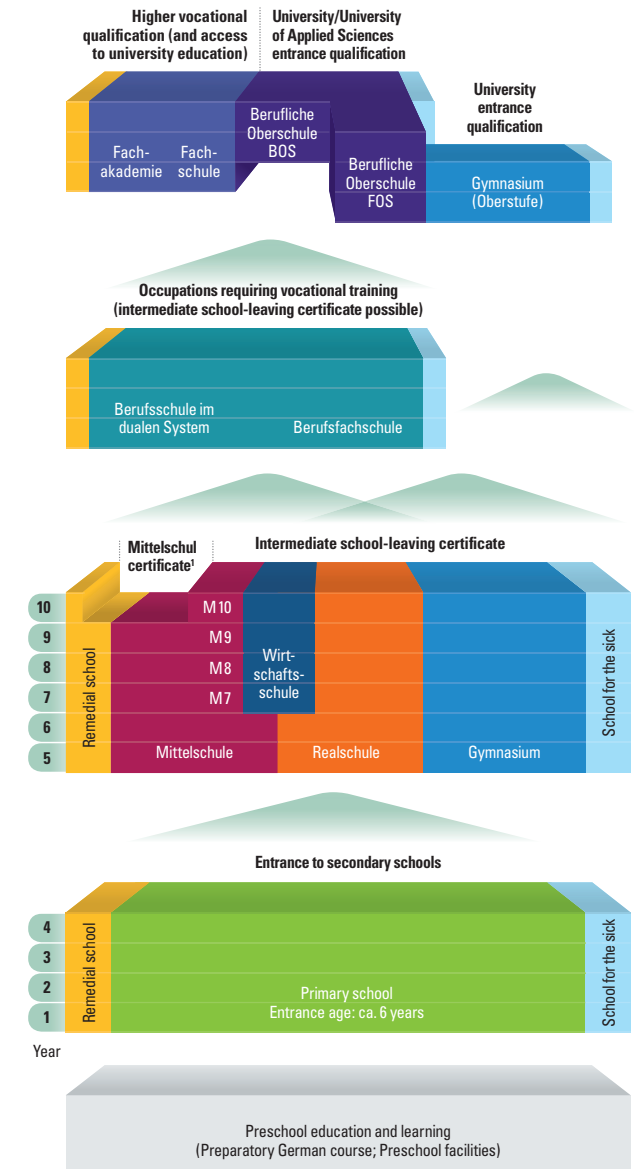
- Vocational training

After receiving the intermediate secondary school-leaving certificate, the pupil may continue with:

- Vocational training
- Vocational secondary school (**FOS**)
- Gymnasium (higher level)

Remedial school is for children and young adults who have special learning needs. It offers a variety of pedagogical support programs in the areas of language, learning, emotional and social development, hearing, seeing, physical and motor development and intellectual development.

Bavaria also operates **schools for the sick** which provide instruction to pupils in hospitals and similar facilities.



¹ Qualifying or standard secondary school-leaving certificate

🇬🇧 Interactive graphic:

► www.km.bayern.de/englisch