

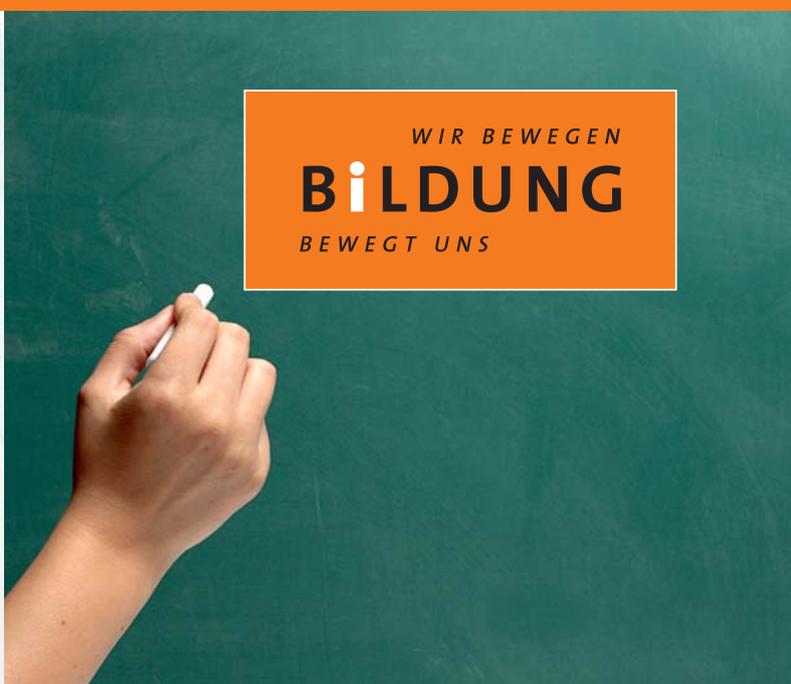


Many Paths to Success

Saxony's School System







WIR BEWEGEN
BILDUNG
BEWEGT UNS

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Everyone counts!

Opportunities abound at Saxony's schools

Dear students, dear parents,
Dear readers,

Which school is best suited for my child? How do I find the school that will provide me with the skills I need for my dream job? What is the difference between a Kolleg and an evening school?

Perhaps you need answers to these or similar questions. This brochure provides answers and information about educational opportunities in Saxony. Our educational environment is as diverse as the educational needs it must meet and extends from primary and secondary schools through to vocational schools and adult education where adults can acquire general education school certification. Students with special educational needs can attend various schools that provide them with the tailored support they need to prepare for living in our society with the highest levels of independence possible. True to the motto EVERYONE COUNTS! Saxony's school system does its utmost to accommodate the different aptitudes, abilities and educational objectives of its students.

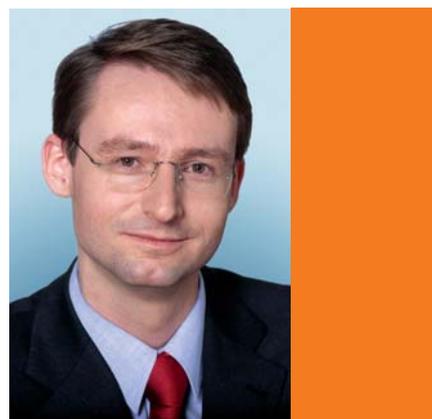
EVERYONE COUNTS! – This is a commitment local schools are going all out to live up to: new streamlined curricula relieve teachers, giving them more freedom to attend to the individual development of each student. Schools have more practical options for action and heightened individual responsibility. External support is sought out to improve the quality of teaching.

Our school system is successful. PISA has shown that Saxony's students are some of the best performers in Germany. But that's not all: the good work of our secondary schools has made a major contribution to lowering the number of students performing poorly in Saxony when compared to most other federal states. In terms of the socially equitable distribution of educational opportunities, PISA gives Saxony's educational system excellent results, attesting to the opportunities and even second chances everyone is given in Saxony's school system.

The variety, mobility and connectivity exhibited by Saxony's school system open up many pathways to a good education. Education is the currency of the future! I wish you enjoyment, success and interesting insights, both in reading this brochure and in your own education or that of your child or children.



Prof. Dr. Roland Wöller
Saxony State Minister of Education and Sports



Prof. Dr. Roland Wöller
Saxony State Minister of Education and Sports



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WIR BEWEGEN
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Opportunities for everyone.

Education in Saxony



Saxony's school system gives everyone a chance. And some even get a second chance. The skills and interests students possess vary widely. This is why Saxony's schools offer a variety of different paths to success. The wide selection of educational opportunities takes into account the personal development of each student and create the basis for lifelong learning. To get our bearings in an increasingly complex and rapidly changing world we need to have a diversified set of skills that we can combine with specialised knowledge.

In this brochure we provide you with an introduction to the different types of schools and educational options available in Saxony. A brief overview is followed by detailed chapters on each type of school. The first part of the booklet provides information on the various approaches, goals and subjects at general education schools (primary and secondary schools, comprehensive schools and schools for individuals with learning difficulties (Förderschule). The second section covers vocational schools which open up other pathways, particularly for secondary school graduates.

You will learn about the theoretical fundamentals for your future profession and have the opportunity to acquire an advanced technical college certificate (Fachhochschulreife) or the (university entrance qualification (Abitur). A separate chapter covers schools for individuals with learning difficulties. Here, students with disabilities or developmental disorders receive the specific assistance they need.

Schools compete globally in terms of quality and performance. Saxony's schools are rising to this challenge by offering diverse educational opportunities, with projects, participation in competitions or special profiles that make each school unique. Online school portraits are a great way to discover the diversity on offer: www.bildung.sachsen.de

These brochures are also available:



Ein guter Start
Grundschulen in Sachsen



Fit für die Zukunft
Mittelschulen und Gymnasien
in Sachsen



Wege zum Beruf
Berufsbildende Schulen in Sachsen

There are roughly
1.500 general education schools with
302.000 students and 29.000 teachers
in Saxony.

Many paths to success: Saxony's school system at a glance

Grundschule (Primary School)

p. 10

Grade levels 1 to 4

In the first four years of school children learn much more than just reading, writing and maths. Experienced primary school teachers follow the children's individual learning development closely and nurture their love for learning and acquiring knowledge. In fourth grade all children receive a recommendation for the Mittelschule secondary school or the Gymnasium secondary school.



Ein guter Start
Grundschulen in Sachsen



Mittelschule (Secondary School)

p. 12

Grade levels 5 to 9/10

Secondary school provides a general education and vocational preparation with many opportunities for students to be supported in honing their individual performance and developing specific interests. This lays the foundation for further professional training. At the end of grade 9 students can obtain a Hauptschulabschluss (certificate of secondary education) or qualifizierender Hauptschulabschluss (qualified certificate of secondary education) and at the end of grade 10 a Realschulabschluss (general certificate of secondary education) can be obtained.

Gymnasium (Upper Secondary School)

p. 14

Grade levels 5 to 12

At a Gymnasium students can obtain an Abitur (university entrance qualification) to qualify for university admission. Grades 5 and 6 serve as a period of orientation where students attending a Mittelschule can still enter the Gymnasium. This may also be possible under certain conditions after grades 7 to 9. In grades 8 to 10 the Gymnasium offers various specialisations called "profiles".



Fit für die Zukunft
Mittelschulen und Gymnasien
in Sachsen



Förderschule (School for individuals with learning difficulties)

p. 16

Grade levels 1 to 9/10

Eight different types of Förderschule schools help children and young people attain the highest levels of independence possible in their private and professional lives. These schools accept students who have learning difficulties that regular schools are not adequately equipped to attend to.



Berufsbildende Schule (Vocational School)

In Saxony vocational schools such as the Berufsfachschule (full-time professional school), Fachoberschule, (specialised secondary school), Berufliches Gymnasium (professional upper secondary school) and Fachschule (professional school) are usually integrated into vocational training centres.

Young people with disabilities are generally integrated into the vocational training curriculum or they study at a Berufsbildende Schule (vocational school). The certification they receive is the equivalent of certification awarded by other vocational schools.



Wege zum Beruf

Berufsbildende Schulen in Sachsen

Berufsschule (Professional School) p. 18

A dual system for vocational training

Vocational schools are part of the dual training system. Students acquire the theoretical foundations for their future profession directly in a company with an education in one of the more than 360 recognised occupations. The Berufsschule also provide a special curriculum for disabled and disadvantaged youth.

Berufsfachschule (Full-Time Professional School) p. 20

Professional education at school

Full-time education at a Berufsfachschule is the way to receive a Berufsabschluss (training qualification) that is recognised throughout Germany. There are currently roughly 40 courses of study and training lasts two to three years.

Fachschule (Professional School) p. 21

Continuing vocational training

Skilled workers with a Berufsausbildung (professional education) and work experience can receive additional qualifications at a Fachschule (professional school). Graduates are qualified for many interesting mid-level jobs between skilled workers/employees and university graduates.

Fachoberschule (Specialised Secondary School) p. 22

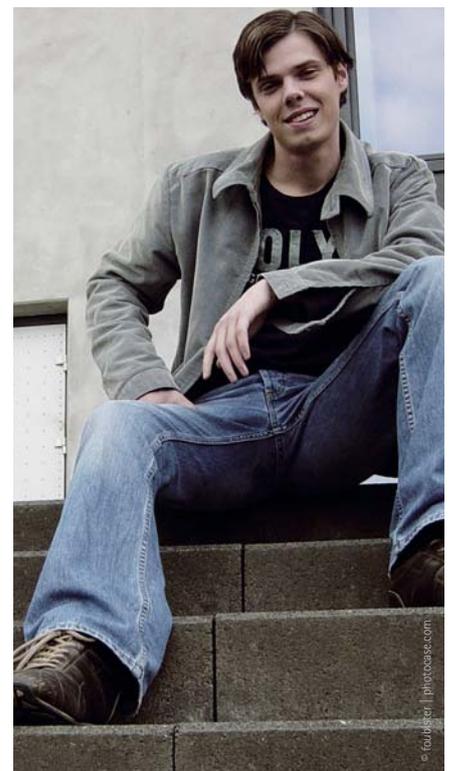
The path to a Fachhochschule (university of applied science)

At the Fachoberschule young people and adults can obtain the Fachhochschulreife (advanced technical college entrance qualification) which entitles them to study at a Fachhochschule. For students with a Realschulabschluss (general certificate of secondary education) qualification takes two years and one year for students who have completed a Berufsausbildung (professional education).

Berufliches Gymnasium (Professional Upper Secondary School) p. 23

Abitur (university entrance qualification) after the Mittelschule (secondary school)

This path to the Abitur and studying at a university is for all those who have a good Realschulabschluss (general certificate of secondary education). The three-year curriculum includes general and vocational instruction.



Grundschule. (Primary School)

A good start



In the Grundschule (primary school) children learn much more than just reading, writing and maths. The joy children experience while acquiring knowledge and their natural curiosity should be encouraged and they must learn to take pride in their abilities. The first four years of school lay the foundation for children's ability to work independently and should motivate children to pursue lifelong learning. For this reason the Grundschule is both efficient and child-oriented. Children want to show what they are capable of, be encouraged and stimulated. And they want to be respected as individuals.

The transition from kindergarten to school

The pre-school year in kindergarten and grade 1 form one unit. Kindergartens and primary schools work closely at this stage to ensure every child becomes acclimated to his or her new surroundings. After-school care for children of primary school age is also available. Parents enter into a service agreement with the after-school care providers. Close co-operation between the Grundschule and after-school care ensures the educational needs of the children are attended to all day.

The child at the centre

The lessons in the first two years of school build on the children's individual knowledge and personal experiences. The primary focus is on capturing the essence of things. Because the children must first learn how to learn, exercises requiring concentration are mixed with relaxation periods. Grades 3 and 4 prepare the children for the Grundschule and Gymnasium. In interdisciplinary

projects the children have more and more opportunities to independently apply what they have learned to master complex situations in an integrated fashion.

Look what I can do!

Reading and Writing

Good language skills are the best guarantor of success and promoting them should begin at a very early age. Reading and writing skills are closely linked in school. From the beginning children write short texts and poems and get acquainted with children's literature.

General education

The world, the coexistence of people and the treatment of plants and animals are at the centre of this subject and are combined with German in one subject block. In this way the learning material can be presented in a comprehensive fashion and the children learn to link new knowledge with what they already know.

Mathematics

Active learning while making discoveries, illustrative examples and subjects from their real lives make it easy for children to recognise mathematical relationships and to practice using them. Children are given special encouragement to find their own ways of arriving at solutions.

Foreign languages

From grade 3 all children have two English lessons a week. Some schools offer another foreign language starting in grade 1.

Religion/Ethics

From grade 1 all children will be offered the subject of Protestant or Catholic religion. Those who do not participate in religious instruction may attend the ethics class.

Recognising achievements

The first two years at school form a single unit. Every child can become familiar with their own learning pace and abilities and there is no decision to be made whether the student will be promoted to the next class. Marks are gradually introduced starting in grade two. This allows teachers to track learning progress and provide children with targeted support. But the children themselves want to know where they stand: marks acknowledge their performance and should serve to encourage and motivate them. In addition to academic performance, behaviour, orderliness, studiousness and cooperation are also evaluated. This way both the children and their parents know whether the student is punctual, follows certain rules, how class participation is and how goal-oriented and precise the student's work already is.

Dialogue between school and parents

It is important for parents and teachers to speak directly with each other about the development of the child to maintain a good relationship between school and parents. Parents' evenings provide an opportunity to jointly agree on classes, class projects, and educational issues. At parent-teacher meetings, teachers are available to answer individual questions the parents may have. In addition, parents elect a class parent representative who represents the interests of the children and parents in school committees.



Photos: © pressmaster | fotolia.com

What's next?

The transition to Mittelschule (secondary school) or Gymnasium is accompanied by school counselling services. In consultations with the parents the child's stage of development and his or her potential as well as the wishes of the parents are discussed. At the beginning of the second half of grade four all students receive a recommendation from the primary school for further education.



Tips and information

You can find more detailed information about the Grundschule in Saxony in the brochure:



Ein guter Start
Grundschulen in Sachsen

Mittelschule. (Secondary School)

Learning to prepare for the real world



Mittelschule students are given many options. The school offers both general and vocational education. When selecting the appropriate school, parents and children should inform themselves in advance about the respective school programmes, the elective courses and special offerings.

Certifications

The educational choices at the Mittelschule are tailored to the interests of the students by offering a wide choice of elective courses. By providing individual support, a Mittelschule can serve the students' performance capacities. A Mittelschule can provide the following certifications:

- Hauptschulabschluss (certificate of secondary education) or qualifizierender Hauptschulabschluss (qualified certificate of secondary education) after grade 9
- Realschulabschluss (general certificate of secondary education) after grade 10

Orientation

Grades 5 and 6

In these grades, students are familiarised with the new requirements. They are introduced to new subjects, practice new learning methods and test their performance. They become more independent and receive targeted support based on their individual abilities. In grade 6 the decision is taken which course of education will be taken (Hauptschulabschluss or Realschulabschluss) and which elective courses each student will attend starting with grade 7.

Individual support

Grades 7 to 9/10

From grade 7 students prepare for the Hauptschulabschluss or Realschulabschluss depending on their individual performance requirements. The same subjects are taught in both courses of education with instruction in German, mathematics, foreign languages, physics and chemistry in Hauptschule or Realschule groups or classes. Depending on performance, students may shift between the courses of education.

Computer science

Computer science education from grade 7 builds on the knowledge and experience students have applied in grades 5 and 6 in the subject technology/computers. Students learn how computers function and how to use them as a medium. Strategies and methods for handling information and data are explained and the limitations and opportunities technical systems provide are discussed. In addition to technical issues, the conscious use of these technologies in society or in leisure time is also discussed. The skills thus acquired are used for processing tasks in all other subjects.

Foreign languages

The primary focus is on English instruction, which starts in the Grundschule and continues until the completion of the Mittelschule. The Mittelschule offers several options for learning a second foreign language: either certificate-oriented education from grade 6 (mostly French), or elective courses lasting one or two years starting in grade 7. Furthermore, languages such as Czech, Polish, Italian and Russian are also offered in study groups.

Vocational training

From grade 7 students receive basic education in applied economics with the subjects economics, technology and budgeting (WTH). The objective is to assist all students to select which career they wish to pursue. Obligatory subject areas coupled with mandatory internships and project work in co-operation with companies provide numerous opportunities for career orientation.

Obligatory elective subjects

Elective courses

In grades 7 to 9 students select elective courses from seven subject areas depending on their own interests and the courses offered by the school:

- Science and technology
- Arts and culture
- Social issues and social action
- Language and communication
- Health and sports
- Computer science and media
- Entrepreneurial activity

Alternatively, more than half of the Mittelschule schools offer a second foreign language with certification starting with grade 6.

Advanced courses

In grade 10 students can select advanced courses in economics, technology or health and social affairs. Learning in one of the WTH subject areas is continued. Some Mittelschule schools also offer advanced courses in art and culture to promote artistic talent and provide orientation for occupations that focus on art and design.

Average class sizes in the various schools are:
Grundschule – 20,
Mittelschule and Abendmittelschule
(evening secondary school) – 22,
Abendgymnasium (evening Gymnasium)
and Kolleg – 23.



What's next?

Vocational training can begin after completing school. With a good Realschulabschluss (general certificate of secondary education) students can continue their education at the Berufliches Gymnasium (professional upper secondary school) to receive higher education entrance qualification (Abitur) or at a Fachoberschule (specialised secondary school) with the goal of attaining the Fachhochschulreife (advanced technical college entrance qualification). About one third of the Mittelschule graduates with a Realschulabschluss choose such a path. In principle it is possible to transfer from the Mittelschule to the Gymnasium after each grade, provided academic performance is sufficient. You can find detailed information on vocational education starting on page 18 and in the brochure entitled "Career Paths".



Tips and information

You can find more detailed information about the Mittelschule and Gymnasium in the brochure:



Fit für die Zukunft

Mittelschulen und Gymnasien in Sachsen

Gymnasium.

Preparation for higher education

Students wishing to attend the Gymnasium must have a recommendation from a Grundschule or Mittelschule or pass an aptitude test. The eight years of schooling at the Gymnasium is designed to provide targeted support for particularly skilled students and prepare them for attending university. The individual Gymnasium schools have different specialisations. Some emphasise natural sciences and social sciences and others may excel in art, languages and sport. Special education priorities are set according to the respective profiles. When selecting a school it is important to consider which particular profile each school offers.

Particularly gifted students have the opportunity to attend special Gymnasium schools with advanced education starting in grade 5. Students who are gifted in several areas (Hochbegabung) can attend the Landesgymnasium Sankt Afra zu Meißen starting in grade 7. In order to attend these schools students must be in possession of a recommendation to attend the Gymnasium and undergo a special admission procedure.

Initial orientation

Grades 5 and 6 at the Gymnasium serve to provide orientation just as they do at the Mittelschule. Similar curricula enable a smooth transition between the two types of schools. Most schools offer remedial or advanced classes for advanced or weaker students, open learning or classes to improve study skills. Starting in grade 5 new subjects are added: history, geography, biology, technology/computers.

The English instruction introduced in the Grundschule continues at the Gymnasium. From grade 6 on all students learn a second foreign language. Physics is also introduced in this grade. These are joined by computer science and chemistry in grade 7.

Becoming familiar with strengths and interests

The goal of specialised instruction starting in grade 8 is for students to become aware of their own strengths, abilities and interests and to develop and sharpen them. Students can choose from several specialised courses and each week two or three hours of instruction are reserved for specialised courses.

Natural sciences specialisation

Scientific thinking forms the foundation of the engineering and medical disciplines. Specialised courses link knowledge of physics, chemistry and biology in an interdisciplinary way. All Gymnasium schools offer these specialised courses.

Language specialisation

The ability to speak one or several languages eloquently and with confidence is a prerequisite for many professions. Students selecting the language specialisation will learn a third foreign language.

Social science specialisation

In conjunction with their particular subjects, students learn to examine social issues and to link them with economic, historical and geographical considerations.

Art specialisation

Through the in-depth study of various artistic subjects, students can hone their creativity and develop the ability to make sound judgments and improve organisational skills.

Sports specialisation

In addition to physical exercise, students learn to combine scientific knowledge with psychosocial and sport theory issues.

Working groups, competitions or internships at companies complement the Gymnasium curriculum. Since many working groups are carried out in cooperation with companies, universities or municipalities, students have plenty of opportunities to become acquainted with the professional world.

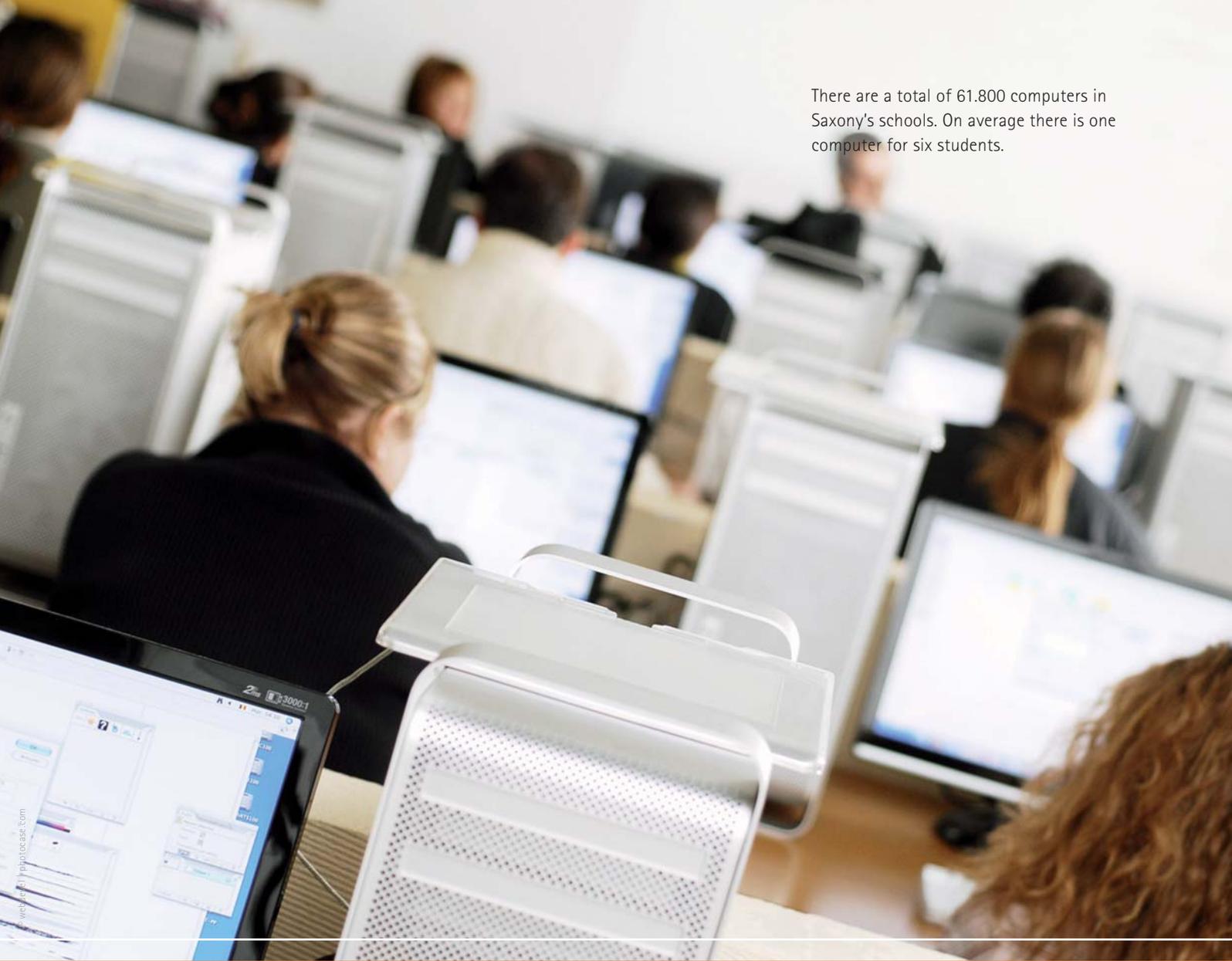
Learning in the gymnasiale Oberstufe (sixth form)

In grade 10 preparation begins for the home stretch to graduation. Student work on topic areas with complex course materials becomes increasingly independent as great emphasis is placed on working independently at this stage. Students can also inform themselves about structures, electives and teaching methods they will experience in grades 11 and 12.

The path to graduation

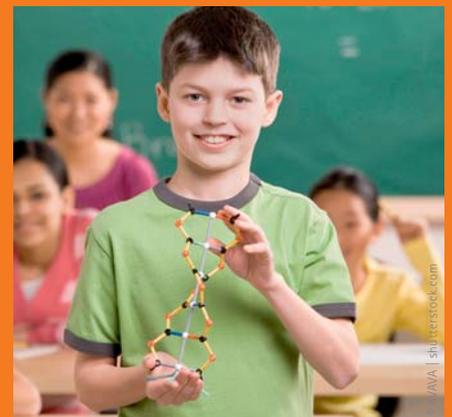
The sixth form curriculum entails courses in two focal subjects at accelerated levels and a series of courses covering basic subjects. The first focal course is German or mathematics. The second focal course is either history, physics or a continuation of a foreign language. Some Gymnasium schools offer art or chemistry as well. Marks are distributed using a sophisticated point system ranging from 0 (worst score) to 15 points (best score). Preparing to work using scientific working methods is the main focus. Students learn different methods for managing complex tasks independently, finding suitable solutions and for controlling their personal learning process. During the sixth form students have the opportunity to implement a "special curriculum" on a topic they may select themselves which can then be recognised as part of the overall qualification in place of an oral exam in the Abitur examinations.

There are a total of 61.800 computers in Saxony's schools. On average there is one computer for six students.



What's next?

With the college entrance qualification certificate (Abitur) students have access to all German universities. Studying abroad is also now an option.



Tips and information

You can find more detailed information about the Mittelschule and Gymnasium in the brochure:



Fit für die Zukunft

Mittelschulen und Gymnasien in Sachsen

Förderschulen. (School for individuals with learning difficulties)

Individual support

Saxony offers a variety of types of schools for children and adolescents with longer-term special education needs.

Teachers advise parents which school can meet their special needs. Integration plays an important role and the principle is upheld that there should be as many shared courses as possible and as much special educational assistance as necessary. Disabled children and children without disabilities play, live and learn together. Both benefit because by being together they strengthen their social skills and give each other encouragement in various areas of knowledge and interests. As we become more able to provide additional teachers and qualified support staff and caregivers as well as facilities for disabled people, more students with special needs will be integrated into the everyday school life of the other general education schools.

Students, who due to impairment cannot be sufficiently integrated into other general education schools and who have longer-term special education needs, attend a Förderschule (school for individuals with learning difficulties). In eight different types of Förderschule schools students are prepared for independent living in the community. The schools seek to enable (re-)integration into other general education schools. Specially trained teachers, special equipment as well as class sizes are based on the children's needs and their individual learning abilities.

School for children with learning difficulties and speech therapy school

School for children with learning difficulties are set up for the educational support of students who have special needs in the areas of emotional and social development. Students whose ability to communicate is severely limited can attend speech therapy school. Both schools cover grades 1 through 4 and generally attempt to integrate students into the general education schools. In exceptional cases classes may be continued up to grade 10. The curricula of the Grundschule and Mittelschule schools are used.

School for children with learning difficulties

The needs of students with major difficulties in the areas of learning, language, perception, and social behaviour are served here. Under certain conditions it is possible to acquire a Hauptschulabschluss (certificate of secondary education). Open forms of instruction, project-oriented classes and individual and group work make it possible to consider the individual abilities, aptitudes and interests the students have. Besides the acquisition of applied knowledge, special emphasis is placed on the development of practical skills. Since the 2009/2010 school year, this school type has been able to graduate students with special needs in the area of learning. Students must pass all subjects with "sufficient". Another change is the mandatory introduction in grade 9 of the subject "complex abilities" which is geared toward practical skills. Students must demonstrate that they have gained basic knowledge that is adaptable and application-oriented and that they possess practical abilities.

School for the mentally disabled

The school for the mentally disabled uses its own curriculum for instruction. In addition to general education at the primary, secondary and sixth form levels, this type of school provides basic vocational education. Each stage consists of three school years. No marks are given. The assessment is based on the students' individual learning progress. A graduation certificate is issued when the individual education plan is completed.

School for the blind and visually impaired

This school is divided into a primary and secondary school section as well as into classes for the learning disabled and mentally disabled students. The school prepares blind and visually impaired children to live in a predominantly visually-oriented world so that they lead active, socially-integrated lives. Specific tools for this include computers with Braille and speech output, screen readers and talking calculators.

School for the hearing impaired

This school assists deaf children or children with severe hearing impairments to develop language and communication skills with special educational programmes. Students have the opportunity to learn sign language, the finger spelling alphabet in addition to writing. This education aims to help students master school learning processes and everyday life.

School for physically disabled children

This school is for physically disabled children and children with multiple disabilities. Depending on the specific needs the students have, the curriculum is based on the programmes at general education schools, schools for children with learning difficulties and schools for the mentally disabled. Teachers provide individual support using educational teaching aids.

Clinic and hospital schools

These schools educate critically and chronically ill children. The goal is to facilitate re-integration into previously attended classes. The scope of instruction is coordinated with a physician.



Saxony promotes integration: Currently 5,042 students with disabilities are studying together with non-disabled students in general education schools.

What's next?

Graduates of schools for individuals with learning difficulties can go on to vocational training or higher education after graduation. If this is not possible, students can take advantage of assistance that takes their individual skills into consideration in preparation for independent living and working or placement in a workshop for the disabled. You can find detailed information starting on page 18 in the brochure "Career Paths".

Information centres

Many schools for individuals with learning difficulties have integrated information centres that provide parents and teachers at general education schools with competent advice regarding individual support.



Berufsschule. (Professional School)

Dual education



The Mittelschule (secondary school) is usually followed by three years of compulsory vocational school training where young persons enter into an apprenticeship contract in one of the approximately 350 recognised occupations requiring formal training. In the dual system, training companies and vocational schools work together as equal partners. The company provides the young persons with practical training, while the vocational school is tasked with imparting the required theoretical knowledge and continued general education. Instruction takes place either one or two days per week or in a block lasting several weeks. Vocational training in the dual system provides a solid basis for the professional development of young people.

Tips and information on selecting a career

The school database at www.bildung.sachsen.de provides an overview of the different profiles of vocational schools. The career information centres at local employment agencies are the most important point of contact for individuals seeking information on occupations requiring formal training. In addition, schools offer support and advice on career options. Numerous information events such as "Open Door Week Saxony" provide students with insights into the world of professional work.

Opportunities for young people without apprenticeships

Individuals who have not received an Abschluss (certificate) from the Mittelschule (secondary school) are eligible to complete a pre-vocational training year. Those who have not been able to secure an apprenticeship contract despite having a certificate are eligible for professional training with a basic vocational training year. Both types of training will satisfy the requirement for compulsory vocational education and successful graduates are awarded the Hauptschulabschluss (certificate of secondary education).

Berufsvorbereitungsjahr (Pre-vocational training)

Building on strengths and interests

The pre-vocational training year introduces young people to two professional areas and gives them an opportunity to get to know their own personal strengths and interests. Pre-vocational training provides support for choosing a profession and motivation for starting vocational training.

Basic vocational training year

A good foundation

The basic vocational training year provides a basic vocational education in full-time for several related occupations such as in the fields of metallurgy and wood technology. The curriculum covers technical theory and practical training experience in addition to general education. After completing the basic vocational training year it is possible to start immediately with a profession or begin a dual Berufsausbildung (professional education).



Nearly 6.500 teachers instruct
124.000 trainees at roughly
300 vocational schools in Saxony.



Requirements

An *Ausbildungsvertrag* (apprenticeship contract) is required to attend a *Berufsschule* (professional school).

What's next?

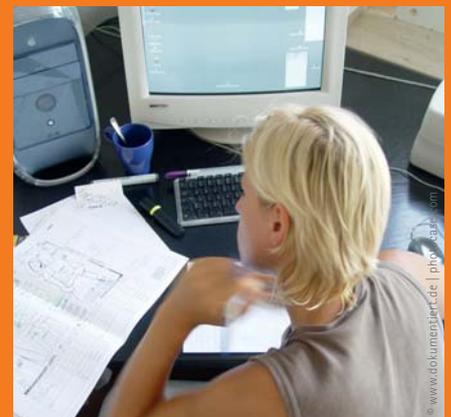
After completing a *Berufsschule* it is possible to start immediately with a profession or pursue additional qualifications:

Fachschule – professional school (qualification for professionals)

Fachoberschule – specialised secondary school (*Fachhochschulreife* – advanced technical college qualification certificate)

Berufliches Gymnasium – professional upper secondary school (*Abitur*)

Abendgymnasium – evening upper secondary school (*Abitur* while working full-time)



Tips und Information

You can find more detailed information about *Berufsbildenden Schule* (vocational schools) in the brochure:



Wege zum Beruf

Berufsbildende Schulen in Sachsen

Berufsfachschule. (Full-Time Professional School)

Professional education at school



At the Berufsfachschule graduates of general education schools can acquire officially recognised professional qualifications in two to three years of full-time school education. Basic vocational education lasting one year is also available and allows participants to familiarise themselves with several professions.

The wide range of professional education includes modern service professions such as assistant in hotel management, nursing, chemical technical assistant, commercial assistant as well as traditional crafts such as watchmaker or musical instrument maker.

In vocational training, internships lasting several weeks or occupational training are to be completed. In this way students can collect initial professional experience, acquaint themselves with a professional social environment as well as with operational procedures while applying their knowledge and skills in real work situations.

Students with a Hauptschulabschluss (certificate of secondary education) may be awarded a Realschulabschluss (general certificate of secondary education) upon successful completion of their vocational education.



Berufsfachschule (full-time professional school) for information and communication technology

The one-year training programmes provide basic vocational training for technically-oriented professions. Graduates of the one-year Berufsfachschule for technology are credited for the first year of an ensuing vocational training in the dual system.

Berufsfachschule for healthcare

This Berufsfachschule provides one year of vocational preparation. It introduces students to the physically and mentally demanding occupations in the health and social services. Successful completion may be counted towards the first year of training in nursing assistance.

Modern service occupations

Saxony's full-time professional schools offer professional education that complies with state and national regulations in many industries such as healthcare, IT, hospitality, tourism, industry and commerce:

- Medical documentation assistant
- Social assistant
- Medical orderly
- Training in the healthcare professions such as healthcare professional and nurses, geriatric nurses, physical therapists
- Chemical technical assistant
- Clothing technical assistant
- Assistant for automation and computer technology
- Technical design assistant
- Assistant in hotel management
- International tourism assistant
- Foreign language correspondent
- Business assistant (specialising in foreign languages or information processing or environmental protection)

- Technical assistant in computer science
- Watchmaker
- Musical instrument makers (for different groups of instruments)

Requirements

The education type determines the entry requirements. The majority of the full-time professional schools require a Realschulabschluss (general certificate of secondary education) and some require a Hauptschulabschluss (certificate of secondary education) or a college entrance qualification certificate.

What's next?

After obtaining a Berufsabschluss (training qualification) at a Berufsfachschule students may start their professional careers. Advanced training at a Fachschule (professional school) usually comes after several years of work experience. Those who still wish to study at a university of applied science can obtain the Fachhochschulreife (advanced technical college entrance qualification) at a Fachoberschule (specialised secondary school) or get an Abitur at a Berufliches Gymnasium (professional upper secondary school).

Tips and Information

You can find detailed information about vocational schools in the brochure:



Wege zum Beruf
Berufsbildende Schulen in Sachsen

Fachschule. (Professional School)

Advanced training as a professional



Skilled workers who have completed a professional education and have work experience can obtain additional qualifications at a Fachschule that builds on the students' professional experience and prepares them for intermediate level responsibilities. The Fachhochschulreife (advanced technical college entrance qualification) can also be acquired at the Fachschule.

Specialisation

Full-time training lasts two or three years and part-time four years at most. The final examination includes a written, an oral and, if applicable, a practical component. At the Fachschule für Sozialwesen (Professional school for the social sector) additional practical training must be completed and the training concludes with a practical test. This is comprised of a practical task as well as a comprehensive interview.

Requirements

Skilled workers who have completed a Berufsausbildung (professional education) and have some professional experience are eligible to attend the Fachschule professional schools.

What's next?

Graduates can perform many interesting activities at the intermediate level between skilled workers/employees and university graduates. Those who wish to attain additional qualifications can obtain the Abitur by attending evening Gymnasium while working full time.

Tips and Information

You can find detailed information about vocational schools in the brochure:



Wege zum Beruf
Berufsbildende Schulen in Sachsen

Specialist fields

The professional schools and agricultural professional schools offer a variety of specialisations in areas such as engineering, design, social services and economics.

You can find more detailed information online in the school database at: www.bildung.sachsen.de.

Fachoberschule. (Specialised Secondary School)

The path to a Fachhochschule (university of applied science)



Would you like to study at university after getting your Realschulabschluss (general certificate of secondary education)? At the Fachoberschule young people and adults can obtain the Fachhochschulreife (advanced technical college entrance qualification). The education includes general and theoretical instruction. For students with a Realschulabschluss (general certificate of secondary education) qualification takes two years. The first year also includes practical instruction outside of school. Anyone who has already obtained a Berufsabschluss (training qualification) is eligible to attend the one-year Fachoberschule

where a specialisation is selected that corresponds to an occupation that has been studied or practiced. The one-year Fachoberschule is offered full-time or, alternatively, part-time to accommodate professionals. In part-time it will take two years to complete the training.

Specialisations

The following specialist fields are available:

- Agriculture
- Design
- Social services

- Technology
- Business and administration

The selection of specialisations does not determine the subjects that can be studied later at a university of applied science.

Benefits at a glance

- A short training period (one to two years)
- No age limit
- No entry restrictions (e. g. minimum grades)



Requirements

To attend the two-year Fachoberschule (specialized secondary school), you need to have a Realschulabschluss (general certificate of secondary education). To attend the one-year Fachoberschule, you need to have a Realschulabschluss and you must have completed a Berufsausbildung (professional education).

What's next?

Graduation from a Fachoberschule provides eligibility for studying at a Fachhochschule (university of applied science).

Tips and Information

You can find detailed information about vocational schools in the brochure:



Wege zum Beruf
Berufsbildende Schulen in Sachsen

Berufliches Gymnasium. (Professional Upper Secondary School)

The alternative path
to an Abitur



Requirements

The Berufliches Gymnasium is suited for everyone who has a good Realschulabschluss (general certificate of secondary education) and are younger than 18 (less than 21 if they completed professional education).

What's next?

The Abitur provides students with access to all German colleges and universities and provides eligibility for studying abroad.

Tips and Information

You can find detailed information about vocational schools in the brochure:



Wege zum Beruf
Berufsbildende Schulen in Sachsen

Those who have a good Realschulabschluss (general certificate of secondary education) or have vocational training can obtain an Abitur at a Berufliches Gymnasium (professional upper secondary school). This paves the way to colleges and universities. In contrast to the Gymnasium, the Berufliches Gymnasium provides additional, occupation-related material in the chosen specialisation. Grade 11 offers students the opportunity to compensate for any difference in knowledge levels. In grades 12 and 13 instruction is divided into focal subjects and basic subjects the same way as at a Gymnasium.

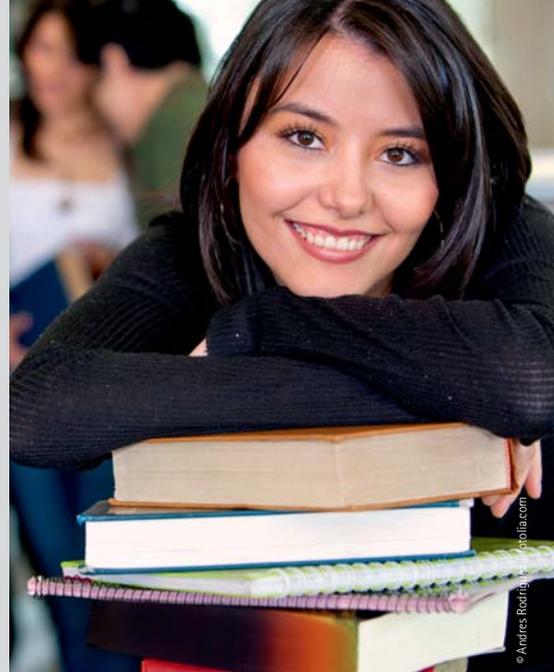
Specialisations

- Agricultural Science
- Biotechnology
- Nutrition Science
- Health and social services
- Information and communication technology
- Engineering Science with a focus on
 - Construction
 - Data Processing Technology
 - Electrical Engineering
 - Mechanical Engineering
- Economics

By selecting their specialisations students are not determining the subjects they can study later on. This means that even those who opt for the subject "engineering science" may, for example, later study business administration.

School Leaving Certificates for Adults.

Adult Education



Adults may also obtain school leaving certificates from general education schools to open up new professional opportunities. Evening Mittelschule secondary schools and evening Gymnasium schools offer opportunities to do this. Full-time instruction is available at the Kolleg.

Evening Mittelschule secondary school

Hauptschulabschluss (certificate of secondary education) and Realschulabschluss (general certificate of secondary education) for adults

Methodology tailored for adults prepares participants for the Hauptschulabschluss (certificate of secondary education) the qualifizierender Hauptschulabschluss (qualified

certificate of secondary education) and the Realschulabschluss (general certificate of secondary education). The courses last one year or two depending on the educational goal. For the last half of the coursework period students may apply for BAföG (federal student support) under certain conditions. Instruction is usually held at schools in evening classes

Evening Gymnasium

Abitur for working professionals

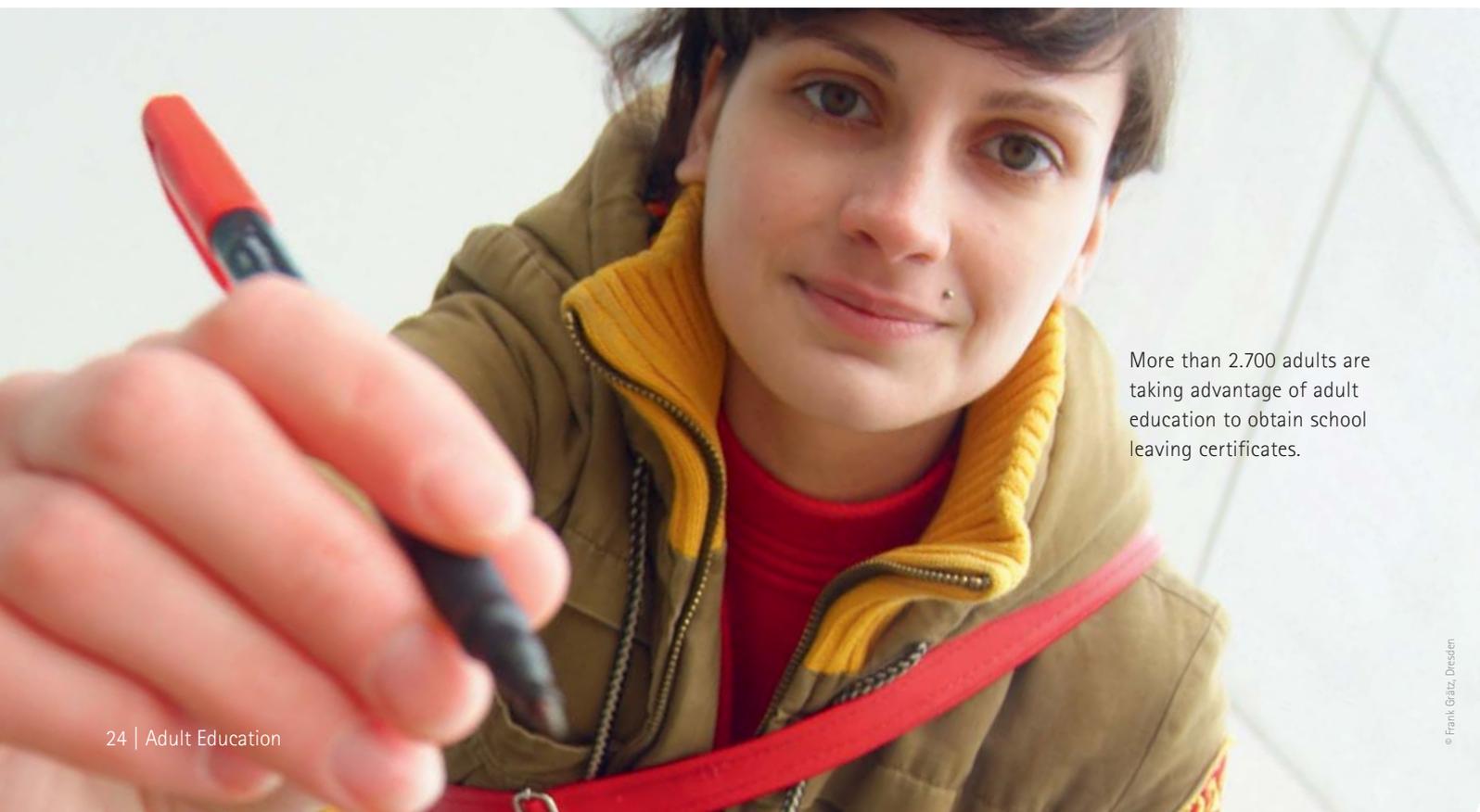
The Abitur is awarded to working professionals after three years of attending the evening Gymnasium (minimum age 18). The Abitur grants eligibility to study at all colleges and universities in Germany. For the last one

and half years students may apply for BAföG (federal student support) under certain conditions.

Kolleg

Abitur in full-time school

At the Kolleg adults can acquire the Abitur by studying full-time. Coursework consists of approximately 32 hours per week and covers the entire spectrum of general subjects. Students can specialise with core subjects. Just like at the Gymnasium, some subjects are taught at an advanced level while others are on a basic level. Depending on the applicant's qualifications when starting, the curriculum can last three or four years. Students may apply for BAföG for the entire duration.



More than 2.700 adults are taking advantage of adult education to obtain school leaving certificates.

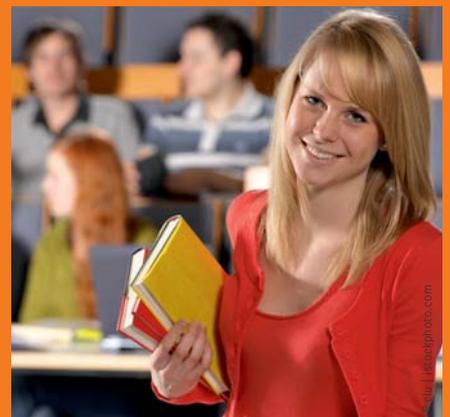


Requirements

- Minimum age at the beginning of the school year: 19
- Realschulabschluss (general certificate of secondary education – grade 10)
- Completed professional education or three years professional work or three years management of a household with at least three people; unemployment that does not exceed one year can be recognised
- Additional requirements for the Kolleg: Hauptschulabschluss (certificate of secondary education) and entrance examination for the Kolleg

Additional opportunities

The Abitur provides students with access to all German colleges and universities and provides eligibility for studying abroad.



Continuing Education.



Some 157.000 participants attended 14.600 courses at community colleges in Saxony in 2008. Language courses were the most popular.

Lifelong learning

Education is not part of any particular stage in life – it's a lifelong process. A salesperson completes a computer course at the community college; an additional qualification can form the basis for the next career step; a retired engineer begins to study art history. These are just a few examples among many. Lifelong learning is crucial if you want to compete in the labour market, obtain a professional education, a school leaving certificate or simply develop personally.

Traditional educational careers that terminated with the end of the school or university often no longer meet the changing demands of the working world. Lifelong learning integrates

preschool education, school education, vocational education, higher education and further education and training to create a system that allows unrestricted access where one level builds on the previous level.

Opportunities for everyone

Throughout Saxony there are numerous educational institutions for continuing education that offer a broad spectrum of opportunities. The topics are related to professional, general, cultural or political education. The scope extends from one-off evening and weekend seminars or field trips to multi-month qualification courses in general education or vocational training.



For further information

- www.sachsen-macht-schule.de/weiterbildung
- www.bildungsmarkt-sachsen.de
- www.slpb.de

Information and advice.

eSpain | Fotolia.com



WIR BEWEGEN
BILDUNG
BEWEGT UNS

The regional offices of Saxony's Education Agency

The regional offices are local contacts for school-related issues or problems. They are the local education authorities responsible for issues regarding content and the staffing of schools. They maintain close and regular contact with schools, school boards and parent and student councils. For problems individual students may have or everyday school issues the psychological counselling at the regional office can be contacted.

Regional office Bautzen

Street address:
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Post office box 4444, 02634 Bautzen
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E-Mail: poststelle@sbab.sachsen.de
Ombudsman
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Regional office Chemnitz

Street address:
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Postal address:
Post office box 1334, 09072 Chemnitz
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E-Mail: poststelle@sbac.sachsen.de
Ombudsman
Phone: +49 371 5366-105

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Großenhainer Str. 92, 01127 Dresden
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Post office box 230120, 01111 Dresden
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Ombudsman
Phone: +49 351 8439-450

Regional office Leipzig

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Post office box 10 06 53, 04006 Leipzig
Phone: +49 341 4945-50
E-Mail: poststelle@sbal.sachsen.de
Ombudsman
Phone: +49 341 4945-666

Regional office Zwickau

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Postal address:
Post office box 200942, 08009 Zwickau
Phone: +49 375 4444-0
E-Mail: poststelle@sbaz.sachsen.de
Ombudsman
Phone: +49 375 4444-333

Saxony parents' council

Street address:
Hoyerswerdaer Straße 1, 01099 Dresden
Postal address:
Post office box 10 09 10, 01079 Dresden
Phone: +49 351 5634732
E-Mail: info@ler-sachsen.de
Contact person:
Mechthild Wilkowski
www.ler-sachsen.de

Saxony students' council

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www.lsr-sachsen.de

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