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## Compulsory school

**Compulsory schooling in Switzerland lasts 11 years. The school year starts in August.**

Compulsory schooling begins with the 4th birthday. You can register your child for school at the municipal office.

The public school is free for everyone and has a good reputation.

It is also possible to enrol your child in an accredited **private school**. You must report this to the municipality and submit a school confirmation. You have to pay the costs of the private school yourself.

### Education system of the Canton of St.Gallen

## Kindergarten: the first 2 years

Compulsory **Kindergarten** ([📄 Preschool / Kindergarten in the first 2 years of school](#)) begins with kindergarten. This lasts for 2 years. As a rule, children are **4 years old** when they enter. The deadline is July 31.

In **Kindergarten** ([📄 Preschool / Kindergarten in the first 2 years of school](#)) children learn in a playful way. Playing fosters important fundamentals such as creativity, perseverance, and social behavior.

[> Leaflet for Parents \(german\)](#)

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## Primarschule: 1st to 6th grade

In **Primarschule** ([📄 Primary school level for grades 1 to 6](#)), children attend **grades 1 to 6**.

The students are taught in the subjects German (English from the 3rd grade, French from the 5th grade), mathematics, nature, man and society, music, design, sports, media and computer science. In addition to these subjects, social skills and self-competence are also promoted at school.

For pupils who need more support, there are support measures.

Pupils who do not yet speak any or only a little German attend additional German lessons. This is organized by the school.

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## Sekundarstufe I: 7th to 9th grade

Following the 6th grade of primary school, the [Sekundarstufe I \(High School Level for 7th-9th Grade\)](#) begins.

It is divided into the [Realschule \(High school level: provides general education with basic requirements\)](#) [Sekundarschule \(High school level: provides general education with higher requirements\)](#). This structure helps to provide students with an education that corresponds to their talents and learning dispositions. Depending on the school, individual subjects are taught in level groups.

Pupils usually enter [Sekundarstufe I \(High School Level for 7th-9th Grade\)](#) at the age of 12.

When assigning to a certain class level, several aspects are taken into account:

- Achievements at the end of primary education
- The teacher's recommendation (often with the involvement of parents)
- Entrance exam (e.g. Gymnasium level)

After 3 years, the compulsory schooling is over. Now the young people move on to [Sekundarstufe II \(Level of higher education or vocational education\)](#), where they can choose the educational path that suits them best:

**Basic Vocational Education and Training /  
Apprenticeship**

**Higher education / baccalaureate = higher education  
entrance qualification**

## School report and grades

In [Kindergarten \(Preschool / Kindergarten in the first 2 years of school\)](#) and primary school, your child will receive an annual report at the end of the [Primarschule \(Primary school level for grades 1 to 6\)](#) year. From the 2nd grade onwards, the school grades are also noted there.

In the [Sekundarstufe I \(High School Level for 7th-9th Grade\)](#), there is a school report every semester.




### How can teachers create meaningful report card grades?

During the school year, there are various evaluation occasions such as exams, observations of learning situations or presentations. Your child will bring home many exam results during the school year so that you are constantly informed about the level of learning.

To create the report grade, the teacher uses all available information - not just individual exam results. The teacher prepares an overall assessment for each subject. This assessment is not the same as the average of the exam results known to you.

The grade in the school report corresponds to the current level of achievement in a subject.

### School report and assessment

 [A avaliação é mais do que um histórico escolar \(portugiesisch\)](#)  PT  PDF, 90 kB

 [Beurteilung ist mehr als das Zeugnis \(deutsch\)](#)  DE  PDF, 2455 kB

 [Değerlendirme bir kameden daha fazlasıdır \(türkisch\)](#)  TR\_TR  PDF, 151 kB

 [Ocjenjivanje je više od svjedodžbe \(bosnisch kroatisch serbisch\)](#)  HR\_HR  PDF, 149 kB












 [Vlerësimi është më shumë se dëftesa \(albanisch\)](#)  SQ\_AL  PDF, 127 kB

 [التقييم أكثر من مجرد شهادة \(arabisch\)](#)  AR\_TN  PDF, 152 kB

## Parental Involvement

As a parent, you and the school are jointly responsible for your child's education. That's why we need to work together.

## Information for parents

-  Ebeveynler - Hak ve Yükümlülükler (türkisch)  TR\_TR  PDF, 845 kB
-  Elterninformation Zusammenarbeit (deutsch)  DE  PDF, 885 kB
-  Eltern - Rechte und Pflichten (deutsch)  DE  PDF, 993 kB
-  Os pais – direitos e obrigações (portugiesisch)  PT  PDF, 1018 kB
-  Parents – Rights and obligations (englisch)  EN  PDF, 1038 kB
-  Prava i obaveze roditelja (kroatisch)  HR\_HR  PDF, 762 kB
-  Prindërit – të drejta dhe obligime (albanisch)  SQ\_AL  PDF, 1023 kB
-  الحقوق والمسؤوليات – الآباء (arabisch)  AR\_TN  PDF, 3416 kB
-  حقوق و مسنوليتها (farsi)  PDF, 412 kB

## Sonderschulen: Special education

There are [Sonderschulen](#) ([Special Education Schools](#)) for children who are unable to attend regular school, such as children and young people with:

- an intellectual disability/multiple disability,
- a speech and hearing impairment,
- severe learning and behavioural difficulties,
- a physical disability
- a visual impairment (there are no institutions for this in the Canton of St.Gallen, only non-cantonal offers)

In the Canton of St.Gallen there are special schools either as day schools with a day structure or as [Sonderschulen](#) ([Special Education Schools](#)) with a boarding school.

There are already curative education offers for young children. As a result, the children receive the best possible support despite their impairment.

After compulsory schooling, special needs pupils can continue to be supported at a [Sonderschule](#) ([Special Education School](#)) in individual cases until they reach the age of 20 at the latest.

## For pupils: why go to a small class or special school?

-  Kleinklasse oder Sonderklasse (deutsch)  DE  PDF, 1230 kB

## School Social Work

School social work helps all pupils, parents or teachers with questions, problems or crises. The school social work office is usually located in the school building. The consultation is free of charge.

### Directory of School Social Work in the Canton of St.Gallen

#### Important to know:



##### Fixed timetable (block times)

From 08:00 to 12:00 the school will not be cancelled and the children will be looked after.



##### Way to school

The family is responsible for the way to school. The child should walk, the parents' taxi is not welcome.























##### School holidays

The school holidays can be found in the cantonal holiday calendar. The municipalities can determine 1 week of vacation themselves, these are usually the sports holidays.



## Brochure for parents in 7 languages

-  Die Volksschule - Das Wichtigste in Kürze (deutsch)  DE  PDF, 1390 kB
-  المدرسة الابتدائية أهم المعلومات باختصار (arabisch)  AR\_TN  PDF, 1699 kB
-  Shkolla fillore Më e rëndësishmja shkurtimisht (albanisch)  SQ\_AL  PDF, 1377 kB
-  Osnovna škola najvažnije informacije (kroatisch)  HR\_HR  PDF, 1457 kB
-  مدرسه ابتدایی - خوب است بدانید (farsi)  PDF, 591 kB
-  O ensino básico - Resumo dos pontos mais importantes (portugiesisch)  PT  PDF, 1386 kB
-  Temel eğitim okulu Özet olarak en önemli noktalar (tuerkisch)  TR\_TR  PDF, 1477 kB

## Looking for help and support?



**Learning and performance deficits**  
Find personal help nearby.



**Bullying & Cyberbullying**  
Find personal help nearby.



**School Social Work**  
Contacts of school social work in the Canton of St.Gallen

## Contact points

Find the right contact point, advice or authority in your area: [Contact points](#)