Erziehungsdepartement des Kantons Basel-Stadt

The Education System in Basel

Kindergarten

Compulsory education starts with two years of kindergarten.

- Places are allocated near home address
- Educational development through play
- Mon. – Fri., 8 – 12 hrs and one afternoon 14 – 16 hrs
- Yearly report and parent-teacher meeting
- After school care and lunchtime supervision available at additional cost

www.bs.ch/kindergarten

Primary School

The kindergarten is followed by six years in primary school.

- Places are allocated near home address
- Holistic education in a wide range of subjects
- French is introduced from the 3rd primary year and English from the 5th
- Mon. – Fri., 8 – 12.15 hrs and one to three afternoons 14 – 15.45/16.30 hrs
- School reports from the 1st year, grades from the 5th year onwards
- After school care and lunchtime supervision available at additional cost

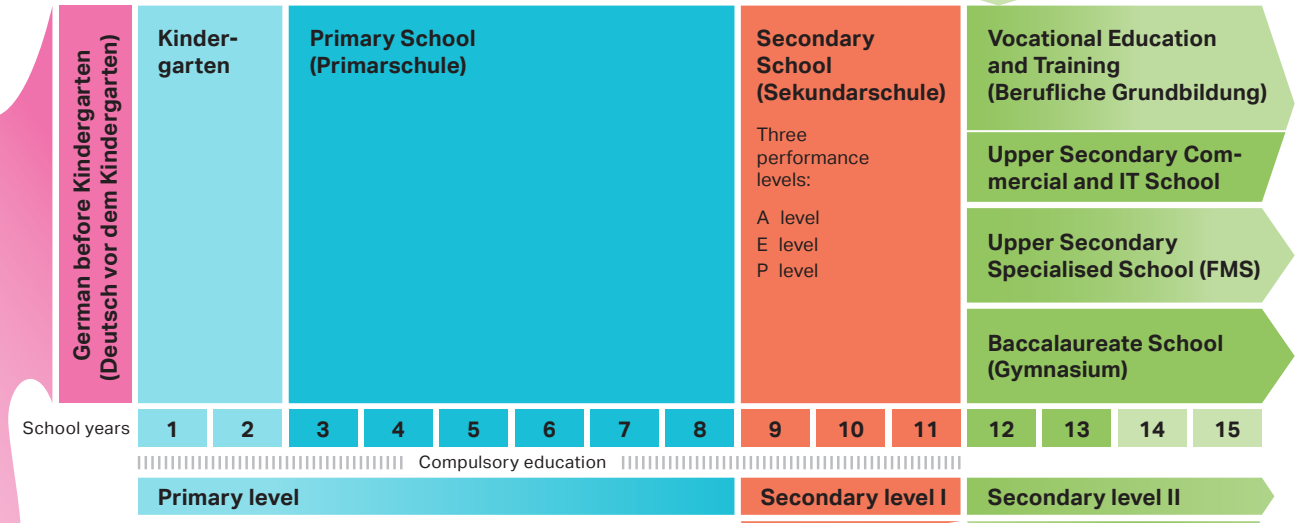
www.bs.ch/primarschule

German before Kindergarten

German support for children with insufficient knowledge of German prepares children for entry to school in the year before kindergarten.

- Compulsory attendance at a playgroup or other German speaking institution
- Minimum three half days per week, without charge
- Assessment of the language level through a questionnaire 1½ years before kindergarten entry

www.bs.ch/frühedeutschförderung



Secondary School

Secondary school prepares young people for an apprenticeship or an upper secondary school.

- Placement to a school (preferences will be taken into consideration if possible)
- **Three performance levels: A** = general standard, **E** = advanced standard, **P** = high standard
- Allocated to a performance level according to grades in report
- Possibility of movement between performance levels
- Day school structure: possibility to remain at school/ have a meal at the school

www.bs.ch/sekundarschule

Baccalaureate Schools and Vocational Education

At the end of compulsory education young people either begin a vocational apprenticeship or change to an upper secondary school to continue their education.

- Vocational apprenticeship = combination of on-the-job training and vocational school (dual vocational training)
- Transfer to a baccalaureate school (upper secondary) on the basis of appropriate grades
- A federal vocational baccalaureate or an upper secondary level baccalaureate (Gymnasium, FMS) allows students to study at a University of Applied Science or university.
- Bridge-year programmes for young people without a follow-on solution

www.bs.ch/berufsbildung
www.bs.ch/weiterfuehren-de-schulen
www.bs.ch/nach-der-sekundarschule

These informations in Deutsch, Français, Italiano:
www.bs.ch/schulsystem

Information and Contacts ▸

11/2026 | ed@bs.ch | www.bs.ch/ed

Erziehungsdepartement des Kantons Basel-Stadt

Information and Contacts

Information Events

Parents will be regularly invited to information events.

- Yearly information evenings about kindergarten, primary school, secondary school and after school care
- Further one-off events according to the individual schools or years
- Information is often available in different languages

School registration for children newly moved to the area

- **Kindergarten, Primary School and Secondary School:** Personal registration after making appointment by phone. Please contact the offices listed on the right.
- **FMS (Upper Secondary Specialised School) and Gymnasium (Baccalaureate Schools):** Register directly at the school (telephone first for appointment)

Bring with you:

- Official identification document of the child and one parent
- Family book, if available
- Permanent residence permit or residence permit related to the parents and child
- School reports, if available

These informations in Deutsch, Français, Italiano:
www.bs.ch/schulsystem

0–4 years

(or until school-age)
Day-centres and Family day-care providers

Office for daycare-centres
Aeschenvorstadt 52/54, 4001 Basel
061 267 46 14
beratung.tagesbetreuung@bs.ch
www.bs.ch/kinderbetreuung

Office for family day-care providers
Aeschenvorstadt 52/54, 4001 Basel
061 260 20 60,
tagesfamilien@waisehuus.ch
www.waisehuus.ch/tagesfamilien-bs

Contact point day-care Riehen
Wettsteinstrasse 1, 4125 Riehen
061 646 82 56, tagesbetreuung@riehen.ch
www.riehen.ch

2–4 years

Playgroups

Contact Point for Playgroups Basel
Aeschenvorstadt 52/54, 4001 Basel
061 690 26 96, info@fks-bs.ch
www.fks-bs.ch

Contact Point Day-care Riehen
Wettsteinstrasse 1, 4125 Riehen
061 646 82 56, tagesbetreuung@riehen.ch
www.riehen.ch

4–6 years

Kindergarten
Including after day care

Compulsory Schools (Volksschulen)
Kohlenberg 27, 4001 Basel
061 267 54 60, volksschulen@bs.ch
www.bs.ch/kindergarten
www.bs.ch/tagesstrukturen

Local Schools Bettingen and Riehen
Wettsteinstrasse 1, 4125 Riehen
061 208 60 00, gemeindeschulen@riehen.ch
www.riehen.ch/bildung

6–12 years

Primary School
Including after day care

Compulsory Schools (Volksschulen)
Kohlenberg 27, 4001 Basel
061 267 54 60, volksschulen@bs.ch
www.bs.ch/primarschule
www.bs.ch/tagesstrukturen

Local Schools Bettingen and Riehen
Wettsteinstrasse 1, 4125 Riehen
061 208 60 00, gemeindeschulen@riehen.ch
www.riehen.ch/bildung

12–15 years

Secondary School
Including after day care

Compulsary Schools (Volksschulen)
Kohlenberg 27, 4001 Basel
061 267 54 60, volksschulen@bs.ch
www.bs.ch/sekundarschule

Career Guidance
(Berufs-, Studien- und Laufbahnberatung)
Rosentalstrasse 17, 4058 Basel
061 267 86 82, biz@bs.ch
www.bs.ch/biz

From 15 years

Career Guidance
(Berufs-, Studien- und Laufbahnberatung)
Rosentalstrasse 17, 4058 Basel
061 267 86 82, biz@bs.ch
www.bs.ch/biz

Vocational Education (Berufsbildung)
Mittelschulen und Berufsbildung
Leimenstrasse 1, 4001 Basel
061 267 84 07, mb@bs.ch
www.bs.ch/berufsbildung

Upper Secondary Specialised School Basel (FMS)
Engelgasse 120, 4052 Basel
061 208 60 80, fms@bs.ch
www.fmsbasel.ch

Baccalaureate Schools (Gymnasien)
Mittelschulen und Berufsbildung
Leimenstrasse 1, 4001 Basel
061 267 62 94, mb@bs.ch
www.bs.ch/gymnasium

11/2026 | ed@bs.ch | www.bs.ch/ed