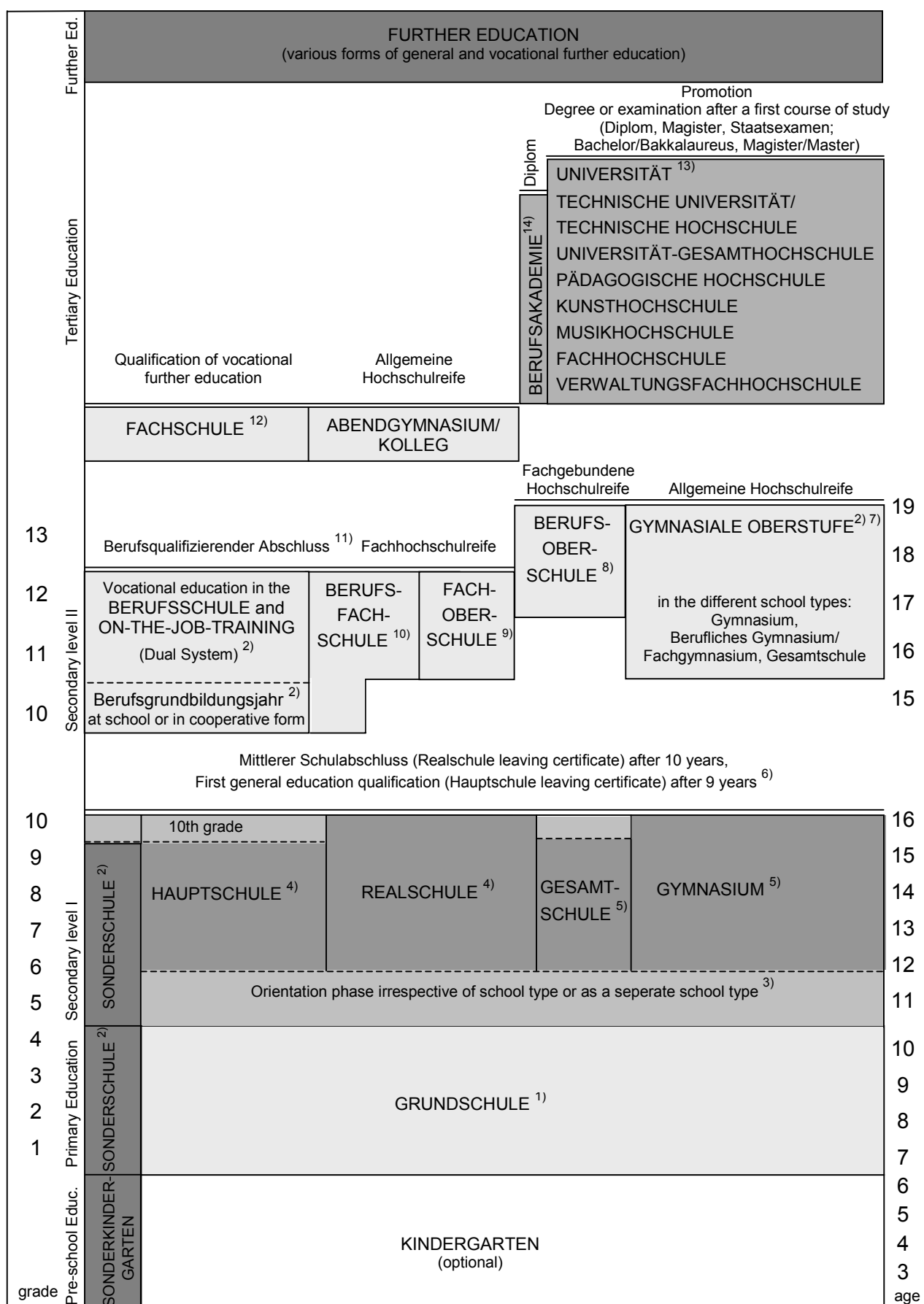


Basic Structure of the Education System in the Federal Republic of Germany - Diagram

Basic Structure of the Educational System in the Federal Republic of Germany



Annotations

Diagram of the basic structure of the education system. Lower secondary education is portrayed in line with the distribution of the school population in grade 8 as per 1999 taken as a national average: *Hauptschule* 22,6%, *Realschule* 26,4%, *Gymnasium* 29,5%, *integrierte Gesamtschule* 9,4%.

The ability of pupils to transfer between school types and the recognition of school-leaving qualifications is basically guaranteed if the preconditions agreed between the Länder are fulfilled. The duration of full-time compulsory education [compulsory general education] is 9 years [10 years in five of the 16 Länder] and the subsequent period of part-time compulsory education [compulsory vocational education] is 3 years.

- 1 In some Länder special types of transition from pre-school to primary education [*Vorklassen*, *Schulkindergärten*] exist. In Berlin and Brandenburg the primary school comprises 6 grades.
- 2 The disabled attend special forms of general-education and vocational school types [in some cases integrated with non-handicapped pupils] depending on the type of disability in question. Designation of schools varies according to the law of each Land.
- 3 Irrespective of school type, grades 5 and 6 constitute a phase of particular support, supervision and orientation with regard to the pupil's future educational path and its particular focuses. In some Länder, the orientation stage [*Orientierungsstufe* or *Förderstufe*] is organised as a separate organisational unit independent of the standard school types.
- 4 The *Hauptschule* and *Realschule* courses of education are also offered at schools with several courses of education, for which the names differ from one Land to another. The *Mittelschule* [Sachsen], *Regelschule* [Thüringen], *Sekundarschule* [Sachsen-Anhalt], *Erweiterte Realschule* [Saarland], *Integrierte Haupt- und Realschule* [Hamburg], *Verbundene Haupt- und Realschule* [Hessen, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern] and *Regionale Schule* [Rheinland-Pfalz], as well as comprehensive schools [*Gesamtschule*] fall under this category.
- 5 The *Gymnasium* course of education is also offered at comprehensive schools [*Gesamtschule*]. In the cooperative comprehensive schools, including the *Schulzentrum* in Bremen, the three courses of education [*Hauptschule*, *Realschule* and *Gymnasium*] are brought under one educational and organisational umbrella; these form an educational and organisational whole at the integrated *Gesamtschule*. The provision of comprehensive schools [*Gesamtschulen*] varies in accordance with the respective educational laws of the Länder.
- 6 The general education qualifications that may be obtained after grades 9 and 10 carry particular designations in some Länder. These certificates can also be obtained in evening classes.
- 7 Admission to the *Gymnasiale Oberstufe* requires a formal entrance qualification which can generally be obtained after grade 10. The *Allgemeine Hochschulreife* can generally be obtained after the successful completion of 13 consecutive school years. In Sachsen and Thüringen, the *Allgemeine Hochschulreife* can be acquired after 12 years of schooling. In other Länder, eight-year *Gymnasium* courses are currently being carried out in a growing number of schools, some of them as pilot projects.
- 8 The *Berufsoberschule* / 13th grade of the *Fachoberschule* has so far only existed in a few Länder and offers school-leavers with the *Mittlerer Schulabschluss* who have completed vocational training or five years' working experience the opportunity to obtain the *Fachgebundene*

Hochschulreife. Pupils can obtain the *Allgemeine Hochschulreife* by proving their proficiency in a second foreign language.

- 9 The *Fachoberschule* is a school type lasting two years [11th and 12th grades] which takes pupils who have completed the *Mittlerer Schulabschluss* and which qualifies them for higher education *Fachhochschulreife*. Pupils who have successfully completed the *Mittlerer Schulabschluss* and have been through initial vocational training can also enter the *Fachoberschule* directly in the 12th grade.
- 10 *Berufsfachschulen* are full-time vocational schools differing in terms of entrance requirements, duration and leaving certificates. There is a special form of the two-year *Berufsfachschule* that requires a *Mittlerer Schulabschluss* for admission leading to a state-recognised examination as assistant. One or two-year courses at *Berufsfachschulen* offer basic vocational training. Under certain conditions the *Fachhochschulreife* can be acquired on completion of a course lasting a minimum of two years.
- 11 Extension courses are offered to enable pupils to acquire qualifications equivalent to the *Hauptschule* and *Realschule* leaving certificates.
- 12 *Fachschulen* cater for vocational continuing education [1-3 year duration] and as a rule require the completion of relevant vocational training in a recognised occupation and subsequent employment. In addition, the *Fachhochschulreife* can be acquired under certain conditions. Within the context of the International Standard Classification for Education [ISCED97], *Fachschulen* are classified in the tertiary sector.
- 13 Including institutions of higher education offering courses in particular disciplines at university level [e.g. theology, philosophy, medicine, administration science, sport].
- 14 The *Berufsakademie* is a tertiary sector institution in seven Länder offering academic training at a *Studienakademie* [study institution] combined with practical in-company professional training in keeping with the principle of the dual system.

As at December 2000

GLOSSARY

Abendgymnasium

Establishment of the so-called Zweiter Bildungsweg at which adults can attend evening classes to obtain the general higher education entrance qualification.

Allgemeine Hochschulreife

General higher education entrance qualification. Entitles holder to admission to all subjects at all higher education institutions and is usually obtained at upper →Gymnasium level [→Gymnasiale Oberstufe] by passing the Abitur examination. The certificate of Allgemeine Hochschulreife incorporates examination marks as well as continuous assessment of pupil's performance in the last two years of upper →Gymnasium level [*Qualifikationsphase*].

Berufliches Gymnasium

Type of school at upper secondary level offering a three-year course of education which includes both the general education subjects taught at upper →Gymnasium level [→Gymnasiale Oberstufe] and career-oriented subjects, such as business and technology, but which also leads to the general higher education entrance qualification.

Berufsakademie

Institution of tertiary education, in seven Länder, offering three-year courses of academic training at a *Studienakademie* [study institution] combined with practical professional in-company training within a dual system, i.e. in the study institution and in the workplace.

Berufsfachschule

Vocational school at upper secondary level offering a wide range of branches and courses of varying duration. A full-time school, it prepares or trains students for a specific occupation at different levels of qualification.

Berufsgrundbildungsjahr

Basic vocational training year at upper secondary level - basic training in one of 13 vocational fields which may be counted as the first year of vocational training within the dual system.

Berufsschule

Vocational school at upper secondary level generally providing part-time instruction in general and vocational subjects to trainees receiving vocational education and training within the dual system.

Fachhochschule

University of applied sciences. Type of higher education institution established in the 1970s, which has the particular function of providing application-oriented teaching and research, particularly in engineering, business, administration, social services and design.

Fachhochschulreife

Qualification entitling holder to study at a →Fachhochschule. May usually be obtained after 12 years of schooling at a →Fachoberschule or - under certain conditions - at other vocational schools.

Fachoberschule

Vocational school at upper secondary level providing two-year courses in various subject areas leading to the qualification of →Fachhochschulreife. The first year consists of both practical training in the workplace and lessons, whilst the second year covers general and subject-specific lessons.

Fachschule

Vocational school offering continuing vocational training courses of between one and three years which build on initial vocational training and subsequent employment and lead to a further qualification in a profession.

Gesamtschule

Type of school at lower secondary level offering courses of education leading to different qualifications [Hauptschulabschluss, Mittlerer Schulabschluss, entitlement to proceed to the →Gymnasiale Oberstufe]. It either takes the form of a cooperative Gesamtschule or an integrated Gesamtschule.

Grundschule

Compulsory school for all children of the age of 6 onwards. It comprises four grades, except in Berlin and Brandenburg where it covers six grades.

Gymnasiale Oberstufe

The upper level of the →Gymnasium, which can however be established at other types of school such as the →Gesamtschule. Normally it comprises grades 11-13. Course of general education concluded by the Abitur examination, which leads to the general higher education entrance qualification [→Allgemeine Hochschulreife].

Gymnasium

Type of school covering both lower and upper secondary level [usually grades 5-13] and providing an in-depth general education aimed at the general higher education entrance qualification.

Hauptschule

Type of school at lower secondary level providing a basic general education. Compulsory school, unless pupil is attending a different type of secondary school, usually comprising grades 5-9.

Kindergarten

Pre-school establishment for children aged between 3 and 6 as part of child and youth welfare services - may be either publicly or privately maintained [not part of the school system].

Kolleg

Establishment of the so-called Zweiter Bildungsweg where adults attend full-time classes to obtain the general higher education entrance qualification.

Kunsthochschule/Musikhochschule

College of art / College of music

Pädagogische Hochschule

Type of higher education institution in Baden-Württemberg, equivalent in status to the universities, offering courses of study for teaching careers at primary level and certain teaching careers at lower secondary level.

Promotion

Award of a doctoral degree on the basis of a doctoral thesis and either an oral examination or a defence of the student's thesis. The doctorate is embarked on after obtaining a first academic qualification for entry into a profession and serves as proof of ability to undertake in-depth academic work.

Realschule

Type of school at lower secondary level, usually comprising grades 5-10. Provides pupils with a more extensive general education and the opportunity to go on to courses of education at upper secondary level that lead to vocational or higher education entrance qualifications.

Sonderkindergarten

Pre-school establishment for children with disabilities - also known as a *Förderkindergarten*.

Sonderschule

Special school - school establishment for pupils whose development cannot be adequately assisted at general schools on account of disability. Also known as *Förderschule* or *Schule für Behinderte*.

Technische Universität/Technische Hochschule

Type of higher education institution equivalent in status to university. Focus traditionally lies in natural science and engineering.

Universität-Gesamthochschule

Type of higher education institution established in the 1970s with the aim of combining the functions performed by universities, colleges of art and music and →Fachhochschulen in terms of research, teaching and studies. The Universitäten-Gesamthochschulen exist in two Länder.

Verwaltungsfachhochschule

→Fachhochschule maintained by the Federation or a Land which trains young people to take up higher civil service grade posts in a particular sector of public administration.