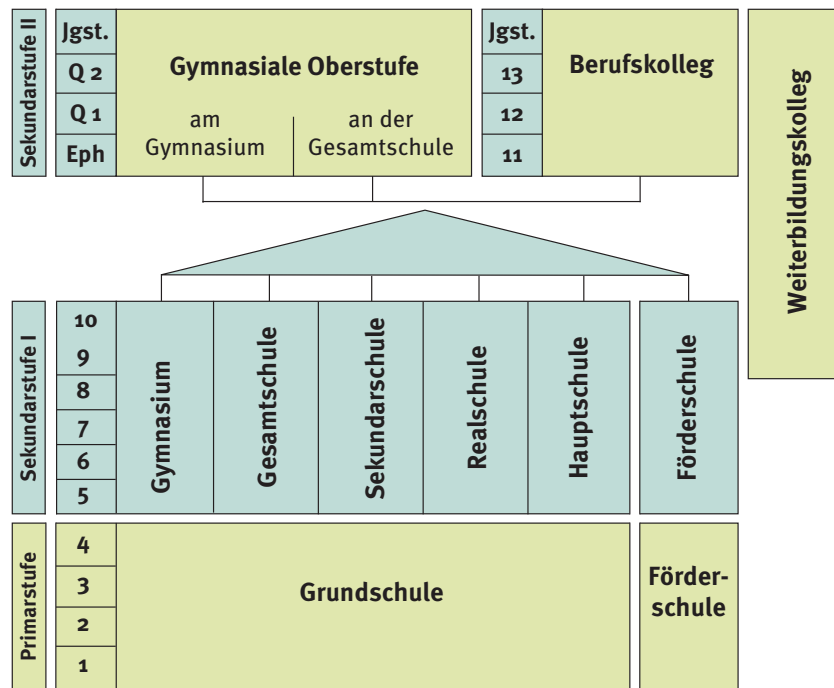


School system in Nordrhein-Westfalen



Sekundarstufe I

Sekundarstufe I builds on primary school. In Nordrhein-Westfalen, the following school forms offer secondary education:

- ▶ **Hauptschule** (grades 5 to 10)
- ▶ **Realschule** (grades 5 to 10)
- ▶ **Gymnasium** (grades 5 to 9)
- ▶ **Gesamtschule** (grades 5 to 10)
- ▶ **Sekundarschule** (grades 5 to 10).

Hauptschule

The Hauptschule provides pupils with a basic general education. The teaching is highly practice-orientated. The pupils receive intensive support at an early stage with their professional orientation, career choice and start of vocational training. Regular internships at companies enable pupils to gain insight into the world of work. The business and world of work learning area prepares pupils for work-related life situations, and makes the living environment – insofar as it is characterised by work – tangible and transparent to them.

Realschule

The Realschule provides pupils with an extended general education. In the lessons, practical and theoretical abilities and skills are promoted on an equal basis. Accordingly, the teaching is practice orientated, but also offers scientific perspectives. Work-orientated competencies acquired and the subject of economics enable pupils to continue their educational path after completing the tenth grade, either in a vocational training programme or at the Sekundarstufe II in the gymnasiale Oberstufe.

Gymnasium

The Gymnasium provides a more in-depth general education. Pupils acquire knowledge and skills that are a prerequisite for university studies or highly demanding vocational training. In a continuous education programme, it comprises both Sekundarstufe I (grades 5 to 9) and the subsequent three-year Sekundarstufe II with gymnasiale Oberstufe.

Gesamtschule

With a differentiated teaching system, the Gesamtschule prepares for vocational training and for studying at a university. There, pupils with different learning abilities can learn together. The pupils are not assigned to specific training programmes as at a Hauptschule, Realschule or Gymnasium. In order to accommodate the different knowledge and skills of the pupils, teaching is offered at two levels (basic level and extended level) in some subjects. The Gesamtschule comprises both Sekundarstufe I (grades 5 to 10) and the subsequent three-year Sekundarstufe II with gymnasiale Oberstufe. Gesamtschulen usually operate as all-day schools.