

---

## Sekundarschule

In Sekundarschule, pupils with different knowledge and abilities can learn together for longer. Within the framework of their professional orientation, it prepares pupils for vocational training as well as for the transition to gymnasiale Oberstufe. From the beginning, the teaching also meets Gymnasium standards, and covers grades 5 to 10. Every Sekundarschule has a binding cooperation with at least one gymnasiale Oberstufe. Sekundarschulen usually operate as all-day schools.

---

## Förderschule

Some pupils require special support due to a learning and development disorder or disability. These pupils are entitled to so-called „sonderpädagogische Unterstützung“. There are seven different „special educational“ support key areas:

- ▶ Learning
- ▶ Language
- ▶ Emotional and social development
- ▶ Sight
- ▶ Hearing and communication
- ▶ Mental development
- ▶ Physical and motor skills development.

General schools are the standard support locations for pupils with special educational support needs. However, parents also have the right to choose a Förderschule for their children.

---

## Sekundarstufe II

The Sekundarstufe II continues and expands the education and upbringing work of Sekundarstufe I. It is split into a general education branch, the gymnasiale Oberstufe and a vocational training branch, the Berufskolleg.

---

## Gymnasiale Oberstufe

Pupils continue their general school education in the gymnasiale Oberstufe. In Nordrhein-Westfalen, upper secondary school can be attended at a Gymnasium, a Gesamtschule or a Berufliches Gymnasium. At the end of upper secondary school, the Allgemeine Hochschulreife (general university entrance qualification) is obtained by passing the Abiturprüfung (final secondary school examinations).

---

At a Berufskolleg, it is also possible to obtain a general university entrance qualification in conjunction with a vocational qualification. With an Abitur (university entrance qualification), one can register for degree programmes at universities of applied sciences or universities.

---

## Berufskolleg

At a Berufskolleg, pupils can attend vocational training programmes that offer

- ▶ a professional orientation
- ▶ preparation for work or study
- ▶ a vocational qualification or
- ▶ further vocational training.

In parallel, all training programmes at vocational schools offer the possibility to obtain or catch up on general education secondary school qualifications up to the level of Abitur.

---

## Weiterbildungskolleg

The Weiterbildungskolleg offers education to working people of different ages or to people with previous work experience. In the training programmes Abendrealschule, Abendgymnasium and Kolleg, all secondary school and upper secondary school qualifications can be obtained subsequently. A special offer is the „Abitur-Online“ training programme with lower attendance requirements at school.

---

## More information:

You can obtain further information at schools, local education authorities and district councils, as well as on the Internet at: **[www.schulministerium.nrw](http://www.schulministerium.nrw)**  
You can find the contact persons for your municipality here:  
**[www.mkffi.nrw/kommunale-integrationszentren](http://www.mkffi.nrw/kommunale-integrationszentren)**

---

## Imprint

Published by: Ministerium für Schule und Bildung des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen  
Völklinger Straße 49 | 40221 Düsseldorf | Telefon 0211 5867-40  
poststelle@msb.nrw.de | [www.schulministerium.nrw](http://www.schulministerium.nrw)  
Foto: iStock@kali9  
MSB 04/2022