

Germany:Primary Education

The *Grundschule* (primary school) is attended by all school-age children together. It covers grades 1 to 4. In Berlin and Brandenburg the *Grundschule* covers six grades.

General objectives

The tasks and objectives of the *Grundschule* are determined by its position within the school system. The primary school's role is to lead its pupils from more play-oriented forms of learning at pre-school level to the more systematic forms of school learning, and also to adapt the form and content of teaching programmes to fit the different learning requirements and capabilities of individual pupils. The aim of the primary school is to provide its pupils with the basis for the next educational level and lifelong learning. Particular importance is attached to the general improvement of linguistic competence and to the basic understanding of mathematical and scientific concepts. The primary school should make pupils capable of grasping and structuring their experience of the world around them. At the same time, they should further develop their psychomotor skills and their patterns of social behaviour.

The primary school sees its function as the fostering of children with different individual learning backgrounds and learning abilities in such a way as to develop the basis for independent thinking, learning and working, and to provide experience of interacting with other people. Thus children acquire a solid basis which helps them find their way and act within their environment and prepares them for the process of learning in secondary schools.

Specific legislative framework

The [Basic Law](#) (*Grundgesetz*) and the [constitutions of the Länder](#) include a number of fundamental provisions on schools (inspection, parents' rights, compulsory schooling, religious instruction, privately-maintained schools) which also have a bearing on primary schools. The legal basis for the *Grundschule* as the first compulsory school for all children is to be found in the [Education Acts](#) and the [Compulsory Schooling Acts](#) of the Länder as well as in the *Schulordnungen* (school regulations) for the primary school enacted by the Ministries of Education and Cultural Affairs in the Länder.
