



Compulsory education in the Canton of Basel-Landschaft October 2018

1. General information

Compulsory education lasts eleven years:

- 2 years at kindergarten (*Kindergarten*) – primary level
- 6 years at primary school (*Primarschule*) – primary level
- 3 years at secondary school (*Sekundarschule*) – secondary level I

Individual children can complete their compulsory education more quickly or more slowly. When they leave school, children obtain a certificate for their compulsory education (*Volksschulabschluss*).

The education systems in the Cantons of Basel-Landschaft and Basel-Stadt are identical. Small differences exist in school hours and in the support provided for learning German before a child starts kindergarten.

Schools in the Canton of Basel-Landschaft are run by the school management. The schools have a certain amount of independence. The school management is responsible for the teaching, teachers, organisation and administration. Compulsory education is provided jointly by the Canton and the municipalities (*Gemeinden*). The municipalities operate the primary schools and the Canton operates the secondary schools.

The Cantonal Education Act describes the different responsibilities.

1.1 Rules for absences and holidays during school time

Primary school and secondary school level I are compulsory. The teacher must be informed of any absences. All absences are recorded in the class register. Absences must be excused by the child's parent or legal guardian.

Parents or legal guardians must obtain permission for holidays during school time:

- the teacher will give permission for a *joker* day (each child may be absent for a certain number of half days without giving a reason)
- the school management will give permission for holidays of up to 2 weeks.
- the school management will ask the School Council to give permission for longer holidays.

2. Primary level

The primary level is 2 years at kindergarten and Years 1 to 6 at primary school.

There are two cycles, organised at the same location.

1st cycle: Kindergarten and Years 1 and 2 at primary school

2nd cycle: Years 3 to 6 at primary school.

Children receive an integral basic education, based on central lesson plans and educational paths.

Your child attends a kindergarten/primary school close to your home. The school management decides which kindergarten your child will go to and which class he/she will be in. The **class teacher** is always your **first contact** for any questions concerning the school.

2.1 Before kindergarten

Your child can learn at playgroup

Children start to discover the world when they are born. Many children have their first experiences outside the family in a playgroup. In a small group, they learn many new things from the leaders and the other children. Children are encouraged through play. They generally go to playgroup at around age 3. They go one or more times a week for half a day. Many places in the Canton of Basel-Landschaft have playgroups.

www.muenchenstein.ch/familie

Playgroups are not compulsory. You have to pay for the service.

2.2 Kindergarten

- **Starting age**
- **Kindergarten hours**
- **What children learn in kindergarten**
- **Language**
- **After kindergarten**

Starting age

All children in the Canton who are 4 years old on or before 31 July start kindergarten in August of the same year.

When children start kindergarten, they start their compulsory education. The first stage of compulsory education is the primary level (*Primarstufe*).

To register your child for kindergarten, you go with your child to a registration afternoon in January.

The school will send the registration forms to the parents or legal guardians in good time. If you cannot go to the registration afternoon, you can register your child in writing.

For children born up to 15 days before or after 31 July, parents or legal guardians can apply for their child to start kindergarten one year earlier or one year later.

Children can only start kindergarten one year earlier if there is a free place in the class. Parents or legal guardians can also apply for their child to start kindergarten one year later. This requires an assessment by the Educational Psychology Service (*Schulpsychologischer Dienst*) or the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Service (*Kinder- und Jugendpsychiatrischer Dienst*). www.baselland.ch/politik-und-behorden/direktionen/bildungs-kultur-und-sportdirektion/bildung/schulpsychologischer-dienst

Kindergarten hours

In Münchenstein, kindergarten is from Monday to Friday. In the morning, classes are from 8:00 to 12:00. Lessons and childcare are guaranteed during this time. In the afternoon, lessons are at different times for the different classes.

Children must arrive between 8:00 and 8:30 and between 13:45 and 14:00. Children in the first kindergarten group go to kindergarten on Tuesday afternoon until 15:45. Children in the second kindergarten group go to kindergarten on Monday afternoon until 15:45. There is no kindergarten on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday afternoon. School trips and excursions are part of lessons.

At all locations in Münchenstein, childcare is available after lessons (*schulergänzende Betreuung (SEB)*).

A list of places with childcare after lessons (*SEB*) may be found at:
www.muenchenstein.ch/schulangebote

What children learn in kindergarten

Kindergarten classes are mixed, two-year groups. Children in the first and second kindergarten years are generally together in the same class. Children have different individual experiences, abilities, and skills when they start kindergarten. The teachers determine the children's level of development by observing them and speaking with the parents or legal guardians. They see the children's strengths and weaknesses, talents, interests and needs.

At kindergarten, children learn by playing, and they play as they learn. While the children play, they gain experience, develop as a person and become part of a community. They are encouraged in all areas and develop self-confidence. The teachers support your child in the development of his/her personality and help him/her to feel part of the group.

Kindergarten prepares children for primary school through play. But kindergarten is not just a place where children play. It is also a pre-school with clear learning targets.

The learning targets are described in the **Curriculum for Compulsory Education in the Canton of Basel-Landschaft**. This has been developed for the 21 German-speaking and multilingual cantons in Switzerland.

Language

At kindergarten, both Swiss German and standard German are used and encouraged. At this age, children learn languages through their activities in the group. Before the children start to speak by themselves, they first need to listen and understand. The teachers give consideration to the languages spoken by the children in the class.

After kindergarten

After kindergarten, your child goes to primary school. You are given a document to show your child has been to kindergarten. Children may only repeat the last year of kindergarten in exceptional cases, if the teacher recommends this. The school management will decide on this after talking to the parents.

Children who are very intelligent and motivated can miss out one school year and leave kindergarten after one year. If the parents agree, the school management will decide on this following a recommendation from the teacher.

2.3 Primary school

- **Duration / general information**
- **School hours**
- **What children learn at primary school**
- **Assessment / school reports**
- **Moving up to the next class**
- **Transfer to secondary school**

Duration / general information

After kindergarten, children go to primary school for six years. Primary school is a "school for everyone". There are generally no more than 24 children in a class. The children are taught a wide range of subjects. Primary school follows on directly from the education at kindergarten, using the same methods and techniques. The development of the individual child is taken into consideration and his/her individual abilities and skills are developed further. Children are not only supported in the different subjects but also learn to take responsibility and develop social competence.

Children are taught in standard German. As of Year 3 at primary school French is taught as the first foreign language and as of Year 5, English is taught as the second foreign language.

School hours

In Münchenstein, primary school is from Monday to Friday. In the morning, all primary school levels have lessons from 8:00 to 12:00.

Lessons and childcare are guaranteed during this time. In the afternoon, lessons are at different times for the different classes.

In the afternoon, lessons start at 13:45 and do not finish before 15:15.

For Years 3 and 4, afternoon school on Monday and Tuesday lasts until 16:05.

For Years 5 and 6, afternoon school on Monday and Tuesday lasts until 16:05. There is no school on Wednesday afternoon and normally no school on Thursday afternoon. On Friday afternoon, school finishes at 15:15 for all classes.

These times may be different for school trips and excursions.

Camps, school trips and excursions are part of lessons and are compulsory.

At all locations, childcare is available after lessons.

A list of places with childcare after lessons: www.muenchenstein.ch/schulangebote

What children learn at primary school

Primary school gives children a sound basic education. This is set out in the **Curriculum for Compulsory Education in the Canton of Basel-Landschaft** for each subject and subject area. The subjects and competence areas build up on the education provided at kindergarten. All the time children are at primary school, teachers pay attention to their personal learning, working and social behaviour.

Lessons are given in the following subject areas:

- Languages (German is the school language, French as of Year 3, English as of Year 5)
- Mathematics
- Nature, people, society
- Crafts (artistic crafts, technical crafts, textile crafts)
- Music, music and movement
- Movement and sport (**sport lessons are compulsory for all children in primary level I and in secondary level I**)

Assessment / school reports

From Year 1 to Year 6 in primary school, children receive a school report at the end of the school year.

In Year 1 and 2 at primary school, the report contains verbal assessments instead of grades:

High requirements fulfilled (*hohe Anforderungen erfüllt*)

Extended requirements fulfilled (*erweiterte Anforderungen erfüllt*)

Basic requirements fulfilled (*Grundanforderungen erfüllt*)

Basic requirements not fulfilled or only partially fulfilled (*Grundanforderungen nicht bzw. teilweise erfüllt*).

In Year 3 to Year 6 at primary school, grades 1 to 6 are given for German, Mathematics and Nature, People and Society. Whole and half grades are given. Six is the top grade and 1 the lowest grade. The four verbal assessments are used for the other subjects. The teachers give grades and verbal assessments based on tests and the child's work in their subjects during the school year.

A progress discussion is held in January each year between the teachers, the parents or legal guardians and the child. The behaviour, competences and performance of the child and the child's continuing education are discussed.

Moving up to the next class

The child's performance is assessed with grades or verbal assessments in the school report. The assessments in relevant subjects will generally determine whether a child can move up to the next class.

At primary school, children who do not have a good enough assessment in their school report can still move up to the next class. The class teacher and the parents or legal guardians must agree on this in a discussion.

In Year 3 and Year 5 of primary school, all children take a standardised performance test. These P3 and P5 tests help to determine the children's progress. They are in addition to the teachers' assessments.

Transfer to secondary school

Progress discussion with recommendation to transfer to secondary school

In the middle of each school year, the class teacher has a progress discussion with the parents or legal guardians. This is based on the performance assessment and overall assessment of the child, the child's general learning and his/her self-assessment.

In the progress discussion for Year 6, the overall assessment includes considerations regarding the child's vocational orientation and the results of the P6 test. The transfer to secondary school is discussed on this basis

The class teacher also considers the child's school performance, the child's work and learning behaviour and the child's social behaviour. The child's level of development also plays a central role. Considering all these factors, the teacher recommends Section A, E or P (explained below) for the child at secondary school.

If the parents agree with the Section A, E or P recommended for their child at secondary school, the school management will decide definitively on the transfer.

If the parents do not agree with the class teacher's recommendation, they write this on the transfer form given to them at the progress discussion and register their child for the "transfer exam" (*Übertrittprüfung*).

The transfer exam

The cantonal transfer exam is held in Year 6 at secondary schools between July and September. Children take this exam if no agreement has been reached in the transfer discussion. On the basis of the results, the children are allocated to one of the three Sections at secondary school. The exam includes the Mathematics and German learnt up to the end of Year 5.

The transfer exam takes place at the secondary school. It lasts 90 minutes (written German exam) and 60 minutes (written Mathematics exam).

Parents of children registered for the transfer exam will receive the invitation and more information directly from the secondary school.

For Section P at secondary school, children must have an average grade of at least 5.25 and for Section E an average grade of at least 4.5. The Department of Compulsory Education (*Amt für Volksschulen*) will take the decision regarding the Section the child can enter.

More information is available at:

www.baselland.ch/politik-und-behorden/direktionen/bildungs-kultur-und-sportdirektion/bildung/primarstufe/laufbahn/uebertritt-in-die-sekundarstufe-i

3. Secondary level I

Secondary school lasts 3 years and gives children an education suited to the Section they are in. They can then transfer to basic vocational training or continue in a different school.

- **The three Sections**
- **Moving between Sections**

Secondary school encourages children to think and act independently and feel part of our society and help to shape it. Children are taught fundamental knowledge and skills to complete their compulsory education.

The three Sections

Secondary school has three different Sections:

- **Section A (general requirements)** is for children who will take an apprenticeship. Children receive a sound general education, are closely supported in selecting a vocation and are prepared for an apprenticeship (a vocational apprenticeship (*Berufslehre*) or a Federal Vocational Certificate* (*Attestlehre*)). With very good school results, children in Section A can also transfer to the next level of secondary school or can obtain a Vocational Baccalaureate (*Berufsmaturität*) in the course of an apprenticeship.
- **Section E (extended requirements)** trains children for a demanding vocational apprenticeship. They can also obtain a Vocational Baccalaureate (*Berufsmaturität*) during or after the apprenticeship. This will allow them to study at a University of Applied Sciences and – via the transfer system** – to take courses at a conventional University. Children with good results in Section E can transfer to a school specialising in business studies (*Wirtschaftsmittelschule*) or computer studies (*Informatikmittelschule*). They can also go to a school to obtain a Specialised Baccalaureate (*Fachmaturitätsschule*) or an academic Baccalaureate (*Gymnasium*).

- **Section P (baccalaureate-level requirements)** enables children to follow the path to an academic Baccalaureate (*gymnasiale Matur*), a Specialised Baccalaureate (*Fachmatur*) or a demanding apprenticeship with a Vocational Baccalaureate (*Berufsmaturität*). In Section P, the child's vocational orientation is just as important as in Sections A and E.
For Section P, the child must be prepared to learn independently.

The Vocational, Study and Careers Advisory Service of the Canton of Basel-Landschaft (BIZ) advises and informs adolescents, young adults and adults on all matters concerning their choice of vocation and studies, as well as their career planning.

www.baselland.ch/politik-und-behorden/direktionen/bildungs-kultur-und-sportdirektion/bildung/sekundarstufe-ii/berufsbildung-berufsberatung/berufsberatung-biz

Explanations/Notes:

* *Federal Vocational Certificate*: basic vocational training lasting two years leading to a Federal Vocational Certificate (*EBA*). Intended for young people with mainly practical talents. There are around 60 vocations leading to a Federal Vocational Certificate. www.berufsberatung.ch/dyn/show/2101

** *Transfer system*: With a vocational qualification and Vocational Baccalaureate, students can transfer directly to a Swiss University or the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH).
www.berufsberatung.ch/dyn/show/7508

Moving between Sections

The system in the Basel region allows children to move between the different Sections and to be admitted to Secondary Level II. Children with very good results can move to a more demanding Section without repeating a school year. Children who are behind in their Section, despite individual support, move to a less demanding Section. They do not normally need to repeat a school year.

4. Consultation with parents / rights and obligations of parents

Parents see teachers regularly to discuss the child's progress and development goals. The teacher, parents/legal guardians and the child have a progress discussion once a year to discuss the child's behaviour, competences, performance and educational path.

You can also make an appointment at any time to come to the school and see what your child's day at school is like.

Parents have rights...

The Schools Act (*Schulgesetz*) states that the school and the parents and guardians are responsible for the education and upbringing of children and young people. As parents or guardians, you are entitled to information about everything concerning your child at school. Your opinion is heard on all important decisions regarding the support to be provided for your child. The school also needs information from the parents and always listens to parents' observations, expectations and concerns..

... but also duties

You, as parents, are responsible for making sure your child can attend school properly. Your child must always get enough sleep and must arrive at school on time. You must also come to the parents' events and discussions organised by the school and make sure your child has the right conditions for learning outside school. Parents who do not do this can be fined.

4.1 Parents' council

The Loog, Löffelmatt, Lange Heid and Neue Welt schools have a parents' council. The parents' council supports contacts and the exchange of information between parents and the school. The Parents' Council allows parents to support the school and kindergarten.

5. Support and advice provided during compulsory education

The class teacher is always the first contact for questions concerning individual support for a child. The school management is then the next contact. The support and advice offered in the Canton of Basel-Landschaft includes the following:

5.1 Intercultural teaching

Intercultural teaching is an integral part of compulsory education. The aim is to promote respect between the majority and minority populations in Switzerland.

Intercultural teaching shows children that people can be different, helps reduce discrimination and permits respectful interaction and equality.

Support is provided for children with insufficient or no knowledge of German. They can participate in the following integration classes:

- **Foreign language integration classes (FSK):**

Small, foreign language integration classes can be organised for children who do not know German. A child will normally be in a foreign language integration class for one year. A child can enter this class at any time.

- **Teaching in German as a second language (DaZ):**

Lessons in German as a second language are provided for children who do not speak German as their first language and do not know enough German. Children with a different language who do not speak German at all can have intensive lessons in German as a second language. This helps the child to follow the normal lessons in a standard class as soon as possible.

- **Refugees in compulsory education:**

Refugee children and young people in Switzerland also have the right and duty to attend compulsory schooling. In the Canton of Basel-Landschaft, children with a foreign native language are normally placed in the correct class for their age when they arrive. They can attend one of the support classes for children without German as soon as they arrive in a German-speaking area.

- **Lessons in a child's native language and culture (HSK):**

Lessons in a child's native language and culture are offered by embassies, consulates and private organisations. Lessons in a child's native language and culture support the development of multilingual and intercultural competence in the same way as at a state school. The lessons also help the children to learn the local language because they can build on sound skills in their native language.

More information at www.hsk.bl.ch

5.2 Special support

Special support helps children with special talents, a learning disability or a learning deficit to develop their skills as far as possible within the state schools. To receive special support, the child must be assessed by one of the special agencies in the Canton:

- Educational Psychology Service (*Schulpsychologischer Dienst*)
- Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Service (*Kinder- und Jugendpsychiatrischer Dienst*)
- Speech therapy services (*Logopädische Dienste*)

Special support includes:

- **Introductory class:**
The introductory class prepares children over a period of two school years for Year 2 of primary school. It is generally a small class with children of different ages. Two years in the introductory class count as one school year.
- **Small class:**
A small class at a primary school and in Section A of secondary school supports children who need academic and social support, or who have a learning disability or a learning deficit.
- **Integrative teaching (ISF):**
Integrative teaching supports children at primary and secondary level with special-needs education or social education. This takes place during normal school hours.
- **Extra teaching in written language and mathematics (FU)**
This extra teaching supports children with learning problems and weaknesses in certain areas of their written language or mathematics. The teaching takes place during normal school hours and is generally in groups of 2 to 4 children.

5.3 Advisory services

- **Educational psychology service (SPD):**
The educational psychology service for Baseland advises and supports you in all questions relating to school. Advice and support from the educational psychology service is voluntary, free and neutral. It is available to parents, children and young people as well as to teachers, when problems arise at school. The educational psychologists adopt a middle position and advise and mediate in difficult class situations, conflicts between schools and parents, learning and performance difficulties at school, questions regarding further education, and a great deal more.
www.baseland.ch/politik-und-behorden/direktionen/bildungs-kultur-und-sportdirektion/bildung/schulpsychologischer-dienst

- **School social work (SSA):**

School social work helps children and young people to become adults. It supports them in organising their lives successfully and promotes their skills in solving personal and/or social problems.

School social work is confidential and finds solutions in direct personal contact with the children. It supports children in cooperation with their teachers and parents and puts them in contact with specialist centres providing child, young person and family support. The Canton of Basel-Landschaft offers school social work in secondary schools. In Münchenstein, school social work is also offered in primary schools.

More information on school social work in Münchenstein:

www.muenchenstein.ch/sozialdiensteberatung/2103

- **Speech therapy**

Speech therapy is provided for children who have difficulties in their speech, in developing language and communication skills, in learning standard German and in learning to read and write. Speech therapy is only provided after a speech assessment.

More information on the Speech Therapy Service in Münchenstein:

www.muenchenstein.ch/paedagogischeangebote/2075

- **Pre-school special-needs education**

Pre-school special-needs teachers visit the kindergarten classes at the start of the school year and at regular intervals. They observe children's development and their behaviour in the group. The pre-school special-needs teacher also listens to the observations of the kindergarten teacher. If necessary, the kindergarten teacher or pre-school special-needs teacher will contact the parents or legal guardians. Together they will decide on suitable measures or support for the child.

More information on the Pre-school Special-needs Service in Münchenstein:

www.muenchenstein.ch/paedagogischeangebote/2076

- **Peacemaker – school project in all schools in Münchenstein**

The Peacemaker programme aims to reduce and prevent violence in schools. A project week is held on the subject of violence and peace. Children chosen by their class learn to mediate in heated situations in the playground and to calm the situation.

Peacemakers should intervene constructively in a conflict in the playground or in their class at least once a week. They receive support from their supervisor and the teachers.

6. Private schools and home schooling

6.1 Private schools

Canton Basel-Landschaft not only has state schools but also a selection of approved private schools. These offer different concepts for different levels of compulsory schooling.

Paragraph 8 of the Education Act states that parents or legal guardians can send their child either to a state school or an approved private school. They must pay for private schools themselves. If they send their children to a private school, they must fill in a form for the state school where they live to confirm that the child will be attending a private school.

A private school must be approved by the Canton. Approved private schools are supervised by the Canton.

List of approved private schools:

www.baselland.ch/politik-und-behorden/direktionen/bildungs-kultur-und-sportdirektion/bildung/privatschulen-und-private-schulung/

6.2 Home schooling

In the Canton of Basel-Landschaft, parents and guardians may teach their children themselves or have them taught (home schooling). Home schooling during compulsory education requires approval in the Canton of Basel-Landschaft. Parents and guardians must fill in a form for the state school where they live to confirm that the child will be having home schooling.

Parents and guardians can apply for financial support from the Canton for private schools or home schooling.

You will find further information and the corresponding forms on the Canton of Basel-Landschaft website:

www.baselland.ch/politik-und-behorden/direktionen/bildungs-kultur-und-sportdirektion/bildung/privatschulen-und-private-schulung/

7. Registration and deregistration when moving to another municipality or canton

If you move to another municipality or Canton, your place of residence is responsible for deregistering and registering your child at school.