

10 – Education I

In Switzerland the cantons are responsible for formation and education matters. As a consequence the school system varies from canton to canton. However the Cantons of Basel City and Basel Land have the same school system addressing the needs of its children and teenagers. The obligatory school lasts 11 years (including Kindergarten) and it is free of cost, with exception of private schools.

Students with special talents or with learning difficulties receive a special support. Children who are new in the region and don't speak German yet are encouraged to attend a course in **Native Language and Culture** called HSK courses (German pronunciation). It was proved scientifically that children who master their mother tongues have good chances to successfully learn German and other languages. The HSK Courses course does not belong to the obligatory program, but it is recommended from class two.

Parents or responsible persons are bound to work together with the school team. The school invites parents regularly to informative events and parents' evenings. Make sure you don't miss these events and use the opportunity to get in touch with your child's teachers. As a parent you need to read and sign the school reports, ask for permission when going on vacation and justify absences.

The school can also organize intercultural interpreters to facilitate communication among parents and teachers.