

The Education system in Germany and its Funding

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues,

I have the honour to speak to you here in Cologne.

I think it is extremely useful to have an organisation like ICP to provide the possibility to meet and to discuss and exchange our opinions on educational questions worldwide.

The topic of the Council Meeting in Cologne and Düsseldorf is funding on education
To be able to understand this, I need to give you a short introduction to the Federal structure of Germany .

I Basics

In contrast to a centralised system, the responsibility for our education system is determined by the federal structure of our state. The Federal Republic of Germany consists of 16 “Länder”, 16 federal states or counties.

Folio 1



On this map, you see the 16 federal states of Germany and every state has an independent Ministry of Education. The Federal Government in Berlin has no real influence on the education system, because the states are responsible for it. This is part of the autonomy of the federal states – and this autonomy is guaranteed by our Constitution.

Folio 2

Some German types of schools.....

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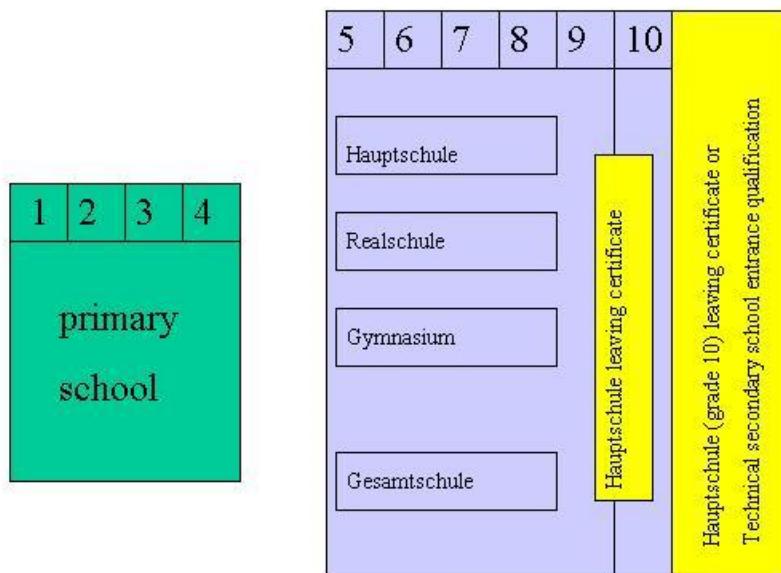


Structure of the education system and of courses of education

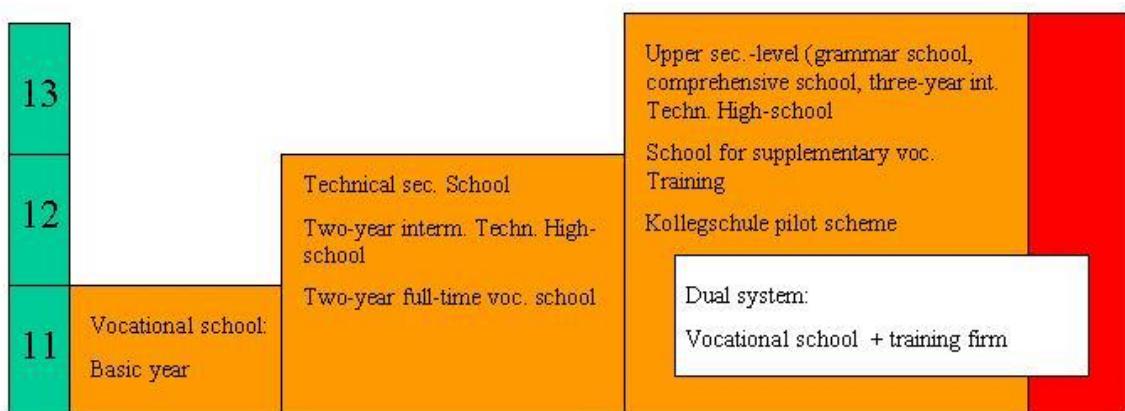
General Compulsory Schooling begins for all children at the age of six and ends after nine or 10 years

Folio 3 + 3a

The school system in North Rhine – Westphalia Primary and Lower Secondary Level



The school system in North-Rhine – Westphalia Upper secondary level



This folio illustrates the different ways within a complex system from Kindergarten to primary school, secondary and tertiary school to University or through vocational schools to the different non-academic professions.

II How Government, communities and schools work together

Within the states, there is a structure of responsibility for schools between the states, the cities and the school. I will explain this system by using the state I work in - North Rhine – Westphalia, as an example. It is a very important state, because it has the largest population of all federal states in Germany.

1. The responsibility of the government for the schools

The laws for the schools are made by parliament and the political majority. They are controlled by the ministry of education. The government is responsible for the salaries, for hiring the teachers, for the school programmes and the evaluation, the curricula and the quality and control of the final exams.

To execute this, our state North Rhine-Westphalia is divided into 5 regions with regional governments . They advise and control the schools through inspectors.

Folio 4

Regional government districts in North Rhine - Westphalia



2. The communities / school districts

These communities – also dependant on the political majority - are responsible for all outer school affairs which have nothing to do with the contents of teaching (inner school affairs). That means: they provide the budget for construction and conservation and renovation of the buildings, all teaching materials, secretaries and caretakers.

3. The principals and the schools

In the past, principals were only the “first teachers” of their schools. Nowadays the situation has changed essentially and the German principals are gradually on their way to be the heads of increasingly autonomous schools, to be no longer “primus inter pares” but managers of their institutions. They have the responsibility for the development and the success of their schools, the budget, recruiting of the staff etc.

III Funding in Education

Expenditures on Education in the Federal Republic of Germany

On average, Germany spends 5.6 percent of the gross national product, i.e. some thirty billion euros, on education.

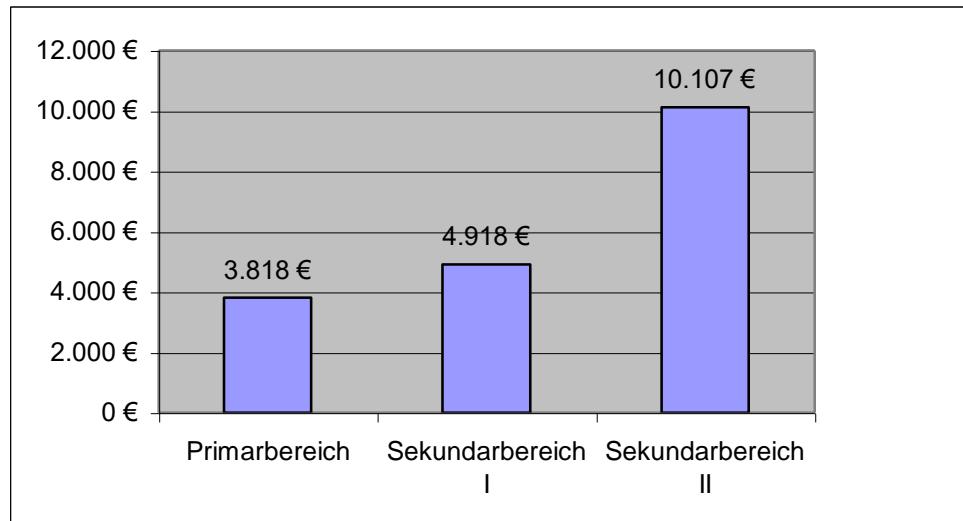
This amount of money contains the expenditures on the following items:

- colleges and universities, schools and vocational schools
- research
- salaries for professors, assistant lecturers, teachers and administrative officials and assistants
- teaching materials
- equipment of faculty and department rooms

The average expenditure on schools is distributed among the different schools as follows:

Folio 5

Yearly expenditure on education per student



Primary School (years 1-4)	Secondary School (years 5-10)	sixth form (years 11-13)
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The financing of a school is mainly based on the following three pillars:

- the respective “Bundesland” (federal state or county)
- the local authority
- the parents

The basis for the figures mentioned below is the Bundesland North Rhine-Westphalia.

This information can also be applied to the other “Bundesländer” (states)

Folio 6

Expenditure on school education incl. Vocational schools

	“Bundesländer”	Local Authorities	Parents
Tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• teacher salaries• teaching materials• school books• contributions to local authorities• further education• school board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• maintenance of the buildings incl. caretaker• School administration• fares and travel costs• equipment of schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• school books satchels, exercise books etc.• travel costs for class trips• voluntary donations
Average expenditure per student	5.416 euros	250 euros	100 euros
Total expenditure	16.857 million euros	48.1 million euros	19.2 Million euros
Percentage	99.6 %	0.28 %	0.11 %

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The expenditures of the local authorities vary considerably. The numbers chart above are on the lower level of the scale. Due to the renovation of buildings caused by the pollution level and the new fire safety measures the expenditures per student can rise up

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Thank you for your attention

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