

What's next after Primary School?

Which Secondary Grade School is the right choice for my child? What should be noted?

Choice of schools in Secondary Grades I and II in the area of Bielefeld

The educational region of Bielefeld has a great variety in terms of education. It is 62 state and private schools that build the basics for a successful education. With these local schools all forms from Hauptschule (expiring), Realschule, Gymnasium, Sekundarschule, Gesamtschule (comprehensive school) and Berufskolleg (vocational college) are provided.

Secondary Grade Schools I and II are introducing themselves

Especially when the switch from primary schools to secondary schools is imminent, many parents ask themselves: Which form of school is the right choice for my child? Which secondary School is characterized by which profile?

Many Secondary Grade I and II schools offer parents and students informative Events, days of open-doors or other offers that are supposed to leave a first impression of the school, their concept of teaching/educating and the life at school. Also specific information about their curriculum will be provided at the school of choice. The possible dates for appointments (ranges usually from November to February) and the different offers are published by the schools on their respective internet websites and homepages.

Helpful tips for finding the right school

The following aspects should be considered when choosing a school

- ❖ Level of proficiency and skill
- ❖ Behavior (work related)
- ❖ Hobbys
- ❖ Learning development
- ❖ Social behavior (people related)
- ❖ Talents

Really important is the work and social behavior of the child. How distinct are the various aspects of your child's work and social behavior? Talk to the teachers of your child for that.

Work behavior

- ❖ Willingness to learn and perform
- ❖ Endurance, concentration and resilience
- ❖ Reliability and diligence

- ❖ Thinking skills, creativity and flexibility
- ❖ Problem-solving behavior and determination
- ❖ independence and self-confidence

Social behavior

- ❖ Ability to cooperate and work in teams
- ❖ Conflict management and tolerance
- ❖ Critical abilities
- ❖ Willingness to help out others
- ❖ Willingness to take responsibility
- ❖ Compliance of rules

More tips for picking the right school:

- ❖ Teachers recommendation for the type of primary school should be considered
- ❖ Does the educational concept of the school fit the needs of the child?
- ❖ In your opinion, which school is the best choice for your child?
- ❖ What were your and your child's impressions of the open house at the school?
- ❖ Subject 'Schulweg' (route to school): Is the school in good reach and safe to get there for your child?
- ❖ Is the school a full-day or half-day school? (Supervision available in the afternoon?)
- ❖ Is the school a state or a private school?
- ❖ Get your own opinion! Decisions based on an alleged "reputation" of a school are not advisable.

Semi-annual or mid term reports, registration forms & registration

Every January all primary schools give out semi-annual or mid term reports and registration forms for state schools. Parents will receive the registration form of their child. That document is supposed to be handed in with an application at a secondary grade school from the state. (Should the child be enrolled in a private school, the parents will receive information regarding the process of application of that specific school.)

Innerhalb des vierwöchigen registration period (13.02.-12.03.2021) kann das Kind an einer weiterführenden Schule angemeldet werden. (Die Anmeldetermine der privaten weiterführenden Schulen orientieren sich in der Regel an den städtischen Schulen.) Die Anmeldung an der weiterführenden Schule erfolgt im Schulbüro / Sekretariat der jeweiligen SEK I/II-Schule.

Within the four weeks of registration period (13.02.-12.03.2021) the child can be enrolled at a secondary school. (The dates of application of private schools usually have similar registration periods like municipal state schools.) The enrollment at a secondary school takes place at the 'Schulbüro' (Secretary Office) of the chosen Secondary Grade School I/II.

Checklist of what to bring for an enrollment

- ❖ The completed registration form (You will receive the registration form from your primary school.)
- ❖ Your child's last six-month mid term report (grade 4) from primary school, including the transition recommendation for the type of school
- ❖ The birth certificate of your child who is to be enrolled in the secondary school
- ❖ If available: Proof of the swimming ability of your child (-> e.g. proof of the swimming badge 'Seepferdchen'/'Seahorse badge')

Acceptance or rejection letter?

Aufgrund der aktuellen Situation ('Corona-Virus-Pandemie') melden Sie Ihr Kind bitte ausschließlich schriftlich (per Post oder durch Einwurf im Schulgebäudebriefkasten) an der gewünschten Zweitschule an.

The decision as to whether your child has been admitted to secondary school will be made as soon as possible after the registration period will expire (no earlier than March 15, 2021). You will receive written information from the secondary school about it.

If your child has not been given a spot at the school you have selected (e.g. because there are not enough available spots at the school), you will receive a rejection letter and the original registration slip from this school. With the rejection letter and the registration slip you can register your child at another secondary school. With the help of a constantly updated list, which is published on the website of the city of Bielefeld, you can check for yourself which secondary schools in Bielefeld still have free spots.

Due to the current situation ('corona virus pandemic'), please only register your child in written correspondence (by post or by placing it in the school building mailbox) at the desired secondary school of your choice.

Travel costs / 'SchülerCard' / 'Schulwegticket'

When will you receive a free student card for your child?

The 'SchülerCard' was introduced first in school year 2020/2021. The new offer for Bielefeld students and their city schools* is valid in form of a monthly pass for all public transport of price level BI and is valid without restrictions, around the clock, all year round (for trips to and from school and also for trips in leisure time and on holidays). The new student card must be applied for through the school using the fully completed order form. The order form is also available online at Mobiel. For more information, please check the leaflet for school travel costs.

The 'SchülerCard' replaces the previous 'Schulwegticket' (school route ticket) **. Students who are entitled to travel expenses for their school route receive the Student Card at a reduced price (against payment of a monthly contribution). Eligible primary school students as well as holders of a Bielefeld Pass who are entitled to travel expenses receive the Student Card free of charge. For those who have no entitlement to school travel expenses and therefore no entitlement to a subsidy, the new student card costs 29 euros per month when paid out of your own pockets. You can find more information about the conditions in the information sheet for school travel costs.

The new public transport for Bielefelds students at the municipal schools was decided by the City Council of Bielefeld on February 6, 2020. There is no obligation to subscribe to the 'SchülerCard'.

However, the school authority (the city of Bielefeld) has fulfilled its obligation to cover school travel costs with the offer in the form of the reduced student card. This means that any other form of reimbursement of travel costs is excluded.

* Students attending private schools can use the offer if the private school authority has concluded a cooperation agreement with MoBiel. If necessary, please ask the chosen private school.

** Eligible students residing outside Bielefeld will continue to receive a ‚Schulwegticket‘ (school route ticket).

Learning aids

Every student is given or loaned learning aids for limited use free of charge (after deduction of an own contribution) by the school authority (§96 Schulgesetz / School Law). The parents pay their own contribution per school year of a maximum of € 34 (of € 102) in the lower secondary level I and of € 31 (of € 93) in the upper secondary level II. (In elementary school there is a maximum of € 16 (of € 48) personal contribution for learning materials.) This contribution does not apply if you are receiving social assistance, but will proceed if you are receiving Hartz IV. In exceptional cases, learning materials can be made available for permanent use if required by the nature of the learning materials.

The term “learning material” does not include objects that are used in lessons as practical or exercise material. They may need to be provided by parents as part of general personal equipment. This includes writing and drawing paper, pens and calculating devices of all kinds, including technical aids and other sorts of work equipment. (Source: NRW School Ministry; <https://www.schulministerium.nrw.de/themen/recht/schulrecht/lernmittelfreiheit>)