

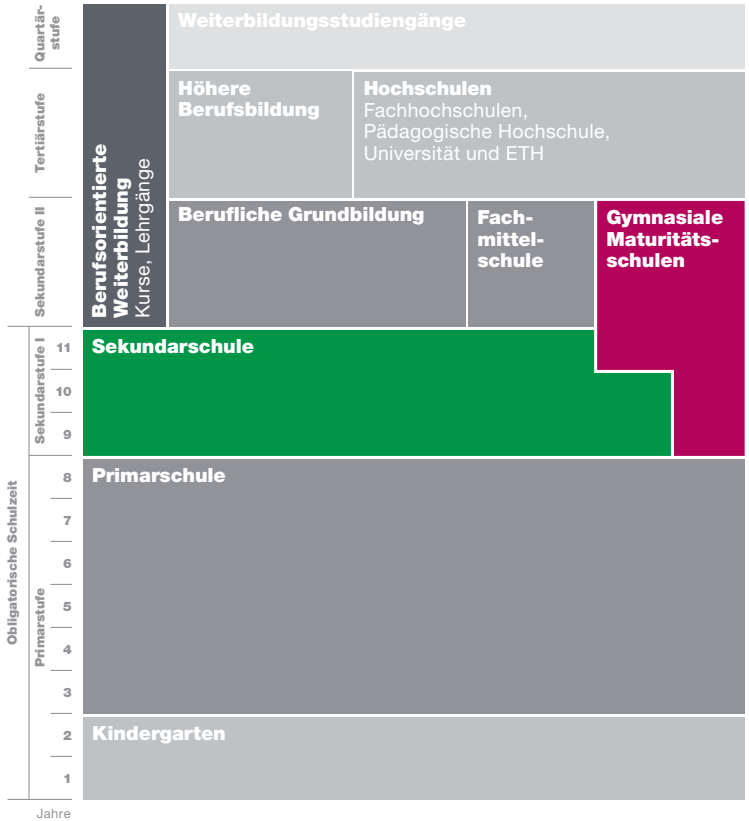


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# **Progressing from Primary to Secondary School Information for Parents**

After grade 6, your child leaves primary school and progresses to either secondary school (compulsory public school) or Gymnasium. This important step in your child’s school career is carefully prepared in 6th grade of primary school and planned and decided in cooperation with the responsible teachers.

### Overview of elementary education in the canton of Zurich





### **Secondary school (compulsory public school)**

Secondary school has two (A, B) or three (A, B, C) groups, depending on the municipality. Group A is the most demanding. The decision regarding what group your child will be in is made by the teacher and you, the parents, at a parent-teacher meeting. The basis for the decision is an overall evaluation of your child. It comprises your child's academic performance, its work and learning ethic, its social behaviour, and its stage of development. If you and the teachers – and maybe the school management – can not agree on the group, the school board in charge of secondary school decides. In order to accommodate the children's different learning abilities, secondary schools can offer three different performance levels (I, II, III) in a maximum of three of the four subjects mathematics, German, French, and English. The school board decides if a municipality institutes performance levels. Level I is the most demanding. Your child will be placed in one of the three levels based on its performance in mathematics, German, French, or English. If your child's learning success and development allow it, it can change to another group and/or performance level. In the first year, there are three dates reserved for this transfer. In the following years, there are two dates (end of January, end of school year). The teachers are usually the ones who file the request for such a transfer. You as parents, however, can also request it. The teachers and the parents decide together if there should be a change. If you can not agree, the school board decides.

## Steps to take for progressing to Gymnasium – a possible timeline

In the first or second quarter of grade 6 of primary school

1. In the first or second quarter of grade 6 of primary school.

The school informs the parents about the structuring of secondary school as well as the individual groups and performance levels and points out the baccalaureate schools' information events.

mid-February

2. Mid-February

The class teacher meets with the parents for an orientation ("Standortgespräch") concerning their child's future school career.

until the end of March

3. until the end of March

The parents receive the class teacher's graduation/placement recommendation and discuss it with them in the presence of the child. If everyone agrees, the placement for secondary school is set. It is communicated officially by mail.

in April

4. in April

If the parties do not agree, there is another conversation involving the parents, the class teacher, a member of the school management, and a secondary school teacher.

If all are in agreement, the placement for secondary school is set. It is communicated officially by mail. If there is no agreement, the files are forwarded to the secondary school board for a definitive decision.

May/June

5. May/June

After the parents have been given the right to be heard, the school board decides on the placement. Parents can appeal against this decision.



## **Gymnasium (intermediate school)**

If your child is one of the pupils with very good grades, it can attend a Gymnasium, an intermediate school, after grade 6. You must enrol your child in the Gymnasium of your choice until February 10th (January 15th for the art and sports Gymnasium). Your child settles for one of five baccalaureate profiles. It has to pass a central entrance exam. The experience grades (Erfahrungsnoten) from public primary school are taken into account. For pupils in grade 6 of primary school, their experience grade is the median of their grades in German and mathematics. Your child's knowledge and abilities acquired in the six grades of Zurich's primary school up to the date of the exam are tested.

## **Who can give parents information?**

Parents should always contact their child's teacher first. School districts usually have a website. A school's web page has a lot of information for you.

## **Further information**

### **Secondary school**

On the websites of the Office of Elementary Education and the Department of Education:

[www.zh.ch/volksschule](http://www.zh.ch/volksschule) → **Sekundarschule**

[www.zh.ch/bildungsdirektion](http://www.zh.ch/bildungsdirektion)

Special needs and gifted education options

[www.zh.ch/volksschule](http://www.zh.ch/volksschule) → **Besonderer Bildungsbedarf**

### **Going to Gymnasium**

On the website of the Office of Intermediate Schools and VET (Mittelschul- und Berufsbildungsamt):

[www.zh.ch/mba](http://www.zh.ch/mba)

This site contains, among other things, enrolment information and the websites of all Gymnasiums and other intermediate schools in the canton of Zurich

Information on registering for the entrance exam can be found at:

[www.zentraleaufnahmeproofung.ch](http://www.zentraleaufnahmeproofung.ch)