



## Newly arrived with school-age children

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Every school-age child and young person newly arrived in a district of Zürich is entitled to and obliged to attend school. This is the case as soon as the child moves into the area and is not affected by residency status. Kindergarten is also part of compulsory education.

### Compulsory education

Compulsory education lasts 11 years, or at most until a child has completed compulsory education. Attending a recognised private school also fulfils the requirements of compulsory education. Children who are four years old<sup>1</sup> are eligible to start compulsory education the next school year and should attend kindergarten. In the state school system, families are not able to choose where their child goes to school: the local school authority allocates school places depending on where the child lives. Parents are able to choose which private school they send their child to.

### Registering your child

Newly arrived parents are required to register their child with their local school authority as soon as they move into a district of Zürich. This requirement applies to all school-age children and young people. Once the family has moved to the county of Zurich, it is important that parents contact their local school authority to find out more about how to apply for a school place. Addresses of local school authorities can be found on the websites of local districts and of schools: [www.vsa.zh.ch/schulen](http://www.vsa.zh.ch/schulen)

<sup>1</sup> Children who turn four by the following dates start school the next school year:

| <i>School year</i> | <i>Deadline</i> |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 2013/14            | <b>30 April</b> |
| 2014/15            | <b>15 May</b>   |
| 2015/16            | <b>31 May</b>   |
| 2016/17            | <b>15 June</b>  |
| 2017/18            | <b>30 June</b>  |
| 2018/19            | <b>15 July</b>  |
| from 2019/20       | <b>31 July</b>  |



### **School admissions**

The local school authority allocates the child a school place. The school management is responsible for allocating a place in a suitable class. The class should be suited to the child's age as far as possible. If the child speaks no or little German, they attend lessons in German as a second language in addition to following the regular timetable. The class teacher also helps the child become integrated in the class and work through the material the class has covered.

Some towns offer newly arrived children a special programme where they spend up to a maximum of one year learning German and preparing to join regular classes.

Vocational schools offer newly arrived young people aged between 15 and 21 a special course that prepares them for vocational training („Berufsvorbereitungsjahr Sprache und Integration“). This one-year course focuses primarily on learning German. In addition, students acquire the skills needed for further education and for vocational training.

[www.mba.zh.ch](http://www.mba.zh.ch) -> [Berufsvorbereitungsjahre](#).

### **Further information for parents**

A dvd, available in 11 languages, provides parents with useful information about the school system in the county of Zurich:

[www.vsa.zh.ch](http://www.vsa.zh.ch) -> [DVD Volksschule](#)

You can download further information – in German and in other languages – from the education authority website:

[www.vsa.zh.ch](http://www.vsa.zh.ch) -> [international](#)