

Lower-secondary Stage

Level 3

1st to 3rd grade of lower-secondary Stage

When students finish primary school, they move up to secondary school. This prepares students for either a vocational apprenticeship or an upper-level secondary school. The school supports young people and their parents or legal guardians in the process of choosing a career. After secondary school, each student is expected to have a suitable opportunity to serve an apprenticeship or attend an upper-level secondary school.

Secondary school lasts for three years. It is divided into three levels of performance:

Sek B: basic requirements, preparation for apprenticeship

Sek E: advanced requirements, preparation for apprenticeship (with / without vocational certificate) or technical secondary school

Sek P: two-year 'Progymnasium', high demands, preparation for transfer to grammar school.

Completion of mandatory schooling

At the end of the mandatory schooling, the students are awarded the leaving certificate. It provides information on academic performance.

Responsibilities

Heads of school, teachers and parents are seen as partners in teaching and education. The well-being of the child is always paramount. Good cooperation between school and parents is essential for the development of the students and their academic success. Clearly regulated cooperation is a quality feature of good schools. Important decisions are made jointly by the school and the parents.

Schools and teaching staff provide a stimulating learning environment which facilitates knowledge transfer. The school informs the parents about important events in school life and responds to parents' information, observations, expectations and concerns about children's development in an appropriate way. The School Psychology Service is available to school staff and parents.

All students must attend state school for eleven years. They are expected to follow the school's rules and instructions concerning attendance and collaboration. Pupils increasingly work independently and take on responsibility for their learning and actions. Assisted by their parents and the school, they prepare for their chosen career.

Parents support their children in their education and during the process of choosing a career. They provide a favourable learning environment outside of school. They collaborate with the teachers and get the teens to follow the rules of the school, which includes attendance at all of the lessons. Parents are expected to attend the school's informative meetings. For questions or when facing challenging situations with their children, parents are expected to contact the class teacher on their own initiative. In case of conflicts with teachers, parents are requested to contact the Head of School.

Detailed information about your local school can be obtained from the local Head of School.

An Overview of Solothurn's State School System



Further information

Teachers and Heads of School
Canton Solothurn's state school office

Find us on: vsa.so.ch
– Flyers in different languages
– Full brochure in German

Volksschulamt

Kreuzackerstrasse 1
4502 Solothurn
Telefon 032 627 29 37
vsa@dbk.so.ch
vsa.so.ch

Welcome to the State Schools of Solothurn

State schools in the Canton of Solothurn face the challenges of providing children and young people with a good education and skills to assist them on their way to becoming independent persons.

In order to achieve this the school needs support from the entire community. Good co-operation between school and home is essential for the child's academic success and personal development.

I wish all the students only the very best on their way to their educational and vocational future.

Andreas Walter
Head, State School Office



Useful information about Solothurn Schools

School attendance for children and young people is both a right and a duty. Compulsory schooling includes kindergarten, primary and secondary school and lasts eleven years. It is free of charge for all. The children and adolescents receive a basic education, which prepares them for vocational training or for an upper-secondary level school. Courses and goals are the same for girls and boys. The school year begins in mid-August and ends in early July.

State schooling is a joint responsibility of the canton, the municipalities and the parents.

Remedial teaching is available for students requiring extra support in addition to mainstream education. Appropriate extra help is provided to students who are academically, socially or economically disadvantaged. Students with disabilities attend school in special school settings.

Primary Education

Level 1
Kindergarten years 1 and 2 and 1st/2nd grade of primary school

Children start kindergarten after turning four. As a rule, they attend kindergarten at their place of residence. Upon request and after consulting with the head of school a child may be allowed to start school a year later than scheduled. Earlier enrolment is not permitted.

In kindergarten the children are supported in all areas of development. They become more independent, interact with their peer group and learn to participate in and contribute to their community.

During the first and second years of primary school students acquire basic skills in reading, writing and arithmetic and gain insight into their environment.

Level 2
3rd to 6th grade of primary school

On level 2 of primary school children continue to be taught a wide range of subjects. Starting from third grade they learn French. In the fifth grade they start learning English. Performance in all subjects is graded and recorded in the school report. Work habits as well as learning and social behaviour are evaluated, and that evaluation is also entered in the school report.

As a general rule, during primary school students automatically get promoted to the next grade after completing each school year.

Transfer to secondary level I is regulated by cantonal law.



School Careers at a Glance

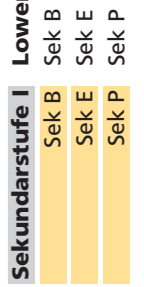
The canton offers various learning opportunities which allow children and young people to develop according to their capabilities and inclinations. The chart below

gives an overview. For children and youths with disabilities, a programme for special needs education is available.

Tertiärstufe	Tertiärstufe: Berufs- und höhere Fachprüfungen, Höhere Fachschulen, Fachhochschulen, Pädagogische Hochschulen, Universitäten, Eidgenössische Technische Hochschulen, (ETH/EPFL)			Schuljahr 16	
	Sekundarstufe II	Berufsmaturitätsausbildung lehrbegleitend (3 oder 4 Jahre) oder anschliessend an Berufslehre: 1 Jahr Vollzeit bzw. 1 1/2 Jahre Teilzeit	Fachmaturität	Schuljahr 15	
			Fachmittelschule	Gymnasium	Schuljahr 14
		Berufliche Grundbildung 2, 3 oder 4 Jahre		Brückenangebote	
Ende der obligatorischen Volksschule					
Sekundarstufe I	Zyklus 3	3. Klasse 2. Klasse 1. Klasse	Sekundarschule B + E	Sek P	Schuljahr 11
					Schuljahr 10
					Schuljahr 9
	Zyklus 2	6. Klasse 5. Klasse 4. Klasse	Primarschule		Schuljahr 8
					Schuljahr 7
					Schuljahr 6
Zyklus 1	3. Klasse 2. Klasse 1. Klasse	Kindergarten		Schuljahr 5	
				Schuljahr 4	
				Schuljahr 3	
Kindergarten	2. Klasse 1. Klasse	Kindergarten		Schuljahr 2	
				Schuljahr 1	



Lower-secondary Stage



Primary Education



Primarstufe

