

50 German school words

Of course, you can Google every word. But I found it helpful to have a printout, and other parents have told me the same. Even when teachers speak English, they use these German school terms all the time. You'll need them throughout your child's school journey.

● 50 WORDS

● 7 TOPICS

● ENGLISH EXAMPLES

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School regulations and procedures may differ between Germany's 16 federal states.

01 Starting Primary School

Einschulung und Schulanmeldung

01 Schulpflicht

Compulsory schooling

You've just moved to Germany and need to find out when your child must start school.

02 Schulanmeldung

School registration

You receive a letter telling you when and where to register your child for primary school.

03 Einschulung

First day of primary school

Your child starts Grade 1. The school organizes a special welcome ceremony.

04 Stichtag

School entry cut-off date

Your child's birthday determines which year they are expected to start school.

05 Kann-Kind

Child eligible for early school entry

Your child is not yet required to attend school, but you would like them to start early.

06 Zurückstellung

Delayed school entry

You believe your child needs another year before starting school and ask about postponement.

07 Schuleingangsuntersuchung

School-entry health assessment

You receive an invitation for your child's mandatory health assessment before starting school.

08 Schulbezirk / Einzugsgebiet

School catchment area

You find a primary school you like, but your home address may determine which school your child can attend.

02 Everyday School Life

Schulalltag und Kommunikation

09 Klassenleitung

Class teacher / homeroom teacher

You want to discuss your child's progress and contact the teacher responsible for the class.

10 Stundenplan

School timetable

Your child comes home and says, "Tomorrow I have six lessons."

11 Vertretungsplan

Substitute teacher schedule

Your child's teacher is absent. You check whether another teacher will take over the lesson.

12 Ganztagschule

All-day school

You work full-time and want to know whether your child can stay at school in the afternoon.

13 Hort / OGS

After-school childcare

School finishes at 1 p.m., but you need childcare until 4 p.m.

14 Elternabend

Class parents' meeting

You receive an invitation to an evening meeting for all parents in your child's class.

15 Elterngespräch

Individual parent-teacher meeting

Your child's grades are getting worse, so you arrange a private meeting with the teacher.

16 Elternsprechtag

Parent-teacher consultation day

The school offers short individual meetings with different teachers to discuss your child's progress.

03 Grades and Assessment

Noten, Leistungen und Zeugnisse

17 Klassenarbeit

Written class test

Your child announces a maths test next week. The result may count towards their grade.

18 Lernzielkontrolle

Learning progress assessment

The teacher checks whether your child has mastered a particular topic.

19 Mündliche Mitarbeit Oral classroom participation

The teacher says, "Your child writes good tests but rarely participates in class."

20 Leistungsbewertung Academic performance assessment

You want to understand how written tests, presentations and classroom participation affect your child's grades.

21 Zeugnis School report card

At the end of the semester, your child receives a report showing their academic progress.

22 Versetzung Promotion to the next grade

Your child's report confirms that they will move on to the next grade.

23 Nichtversetzung Not being promoted to the next grade

Your child has several failing grades. The school informs you that they may have to repeat the year.

04 Language and Learning Support

Sprachförderung und individuelle Unterstützung

24 Deutsch als Zweitsprache (DaZ) German as a second language

Your child has recently arrived in Germany and needs additional German lessons.

25 Sprachförderung Language support

Your child speaks German confidently but struggles to understand school assignments. You ask what language support is available.

26 Bildungssprache Academic German

Your child understands everyday German but cannot explain scientific processes or justify an opinion in German.

27 Sprachstandserhebung Language proficiency assessment

The school assesses your child's German skills to identify which areas need support.

28 Förderplan Individual learning support plan

Your child struggles with reading. The school develops a plan with learning goals and support measures.

29 Nachteilsausgleich Reasonable adjustments / exam accommodations

Your child has a documented impairment. You ask whether additional time or other adjustments are possible during exams.

30 Lese-Rechtschreib-Schwierigkeiten (LRS) Reading and spelling difficulties

Your child makes persistent spelling mistakes despite practice. You ask the school about assessment and support.

31 Sonderpädagogischer Förderbedarf Special educational support needs
Your child needs additional educational support. The school discusses whether a formal assessment is appropriate.

32 Schulsozialarbeit School social work
Your child is being excluded by classmates. You contact the school social worker for help.

05 School Types and Educational Pathways

Schulformen und Bildungswege

33 Grundschulempfehlung Primary school recommendation
Your child is finishing primary school. The teacher recommends a type of secondary education.

34 Gymnasium Academic-track secondary school
You want your child to follow a school pathway leading towards the Abitur and university.

35 Gesamtschule Comprehensive secondary school
You are looking for a school offering different educational pathways and qualifications.

36 Probeunterricht Trial lessons / admission assessment
In Bavaria, your child's grades do not meet the usual Gymnasium admission requirements. You ask about the trial lessons.

37 Mittlerer Schulabschluss (MSA) Intermediate secondary school certificate
Your teenager is approaching the end of lower secondary education and preparing for a school-leaving qualification.

38 Abitur University entrance qualification
Your child wants to study at a German university and is preparing for the final school examinations.

39 Schulformwechsel Change of secondary school type
Your child attends a Realschule but is performing very well. You ask whether transferring to a Gymnasium is possible.

06 Absences and School Attendance

Fehlzeiten, Krankmeldungen und Schulpflicht

40 Krankmeldung Reporting a child sick
Your child wakes up with a fever. You must inform the school that they will be absent.

41 Entschuldigung Written explanation for an absence
After your child returns to school, you are asked to provide a written explanation for their absence.

42 **Ärztliches Attest** Medical certificate / doctor's note
The school requests a doctor's note under specific circumstances to confirm your child's illness.

43 **Beurlaubung** Approved leave of absence
Your family has an important event abroad. You apply for permission for your child to miss two school days.

44 **Unentschuldigtes Fehlen** Unexcused absence
Your child misses school without an accepted excuse or prior permission. The absence is recorded as unexcused.

45 **Bußgeld** Administrative fine
You take your child on holiday before the official school break without permission. You may face a fine.

07 **Parent Rights and School Authorities**

Elternrechte, Mitbestimmung und Behörden

46 **Elternvertretung** Parent representatives
Parents elect representatives who communicate their concerns and interests to the school.

47 **Schulkonferenz** School governing council
Representatives of parents, teachers and often students discuss or decide important school matters.

48 **Klassenkonferenz** Class teachers' conference
Teachers meet to discuss educational issues, class matters or decisions concerning individual students.

49 **Schulaufsicht** School supervisory authority
You have a serious unresolved problem with the school and want to contact the responsible education authority.

50 **Widerspruch** Formal objection / administrative appeal
Your child has been refused a school place. You check whether you can formally challenge the decision and what deadline applies.

Questions? [Email me](#)

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