

Transition from primary to lower-secondary school

Compulsory education in Switzerland covers eleven years of schooling. Compulsory education consists of primary school (the first two years of which are referred to as the first learning cycle, or kindergarten) and lower-secondary level. Parents are usually informed about the details of transition from primary school to lower-secondary level by schools, teachers or local authorities during their child's last year of primary school.

Scholastic aptitudes

At the end of primary school, teachers will assign students to different performance levels at lower-secondary school, depending on their individual scholastic aptitudes. In certain parts of the German-speaking region of Switzerland, there are six-year baccalaureate schools, which begin to prepare students for tertiary education right after primary school. Many students attend preparatory courses before applying for these schools because there is an admission procedure. In some places, these preparatory courses are offered and fully paid for by the communal authorities where the school is located. In other places, preparatory courses are taught at private schools, but are not free of charge.

Tutoring and support

For questions on tutoring and support, the first person to be approached should be a child's teacher. He or she can provide information on tutoring and support in your local commune. You can also obtain support from an organisation representing your cultural community. Web for Migrants (WFM), for example, is a non-profit organisation with no political or religious affiliation. Its website provides useful information in many different languages as well as links to various organisations that provide assistance to foreigners.