

English / Englisch

HSK

Teaching of Native Languages

(Heimatliche Sprache und Kultur HSK)

Information for Legal Guardians and Parents

Promotion of German language and development of multilingual and intercultural skills are among the most fundamental educational tasks of public schools. Likewise the development of multilingual and intercultural skills are considered goals within teaching of native languages (HSK). Therefore they take place in public schools and are supported by persons in charge of education within the canton.

Multilingual and Intercultural Skills

Young people who hold good abilities of the common German language and are also able to further communicate in the language of their parents do have important skills to integrate professionally and within the society they live.

HSK-teaching exists in all cantons; some cities offer more than 25 languages.

Goals of HSK-Teaching

Children and adolescents

- immerse themselves and broaden their oral, comprehensive, reading and writing skills in their maternal language.
- Broaden their skills to shift within two or more languages and different cultures and to understand and respect other values and norms.

Advantages within Society and Professional Life

- People who are in command of their maternal language create a good foundation for learning further languages (German and other foreign languages).
- Good skills in the maternal language help the children to foster contact with their family, relatives and native country.
- Good language skills in the native language are necessary in order to maintain contact with the country of origin (further education, professional activities, when returning).

Parents support the language development of their child

- while they talk to their child in the language they think and dream and while they also remain with this language when the child speaks to them in German.
- while they stimulate and support their child to take pleasure in languages, report each other on everyday life, discuss, sing, tell stories and read to one another.
- while addressing the child, every person within the family talks in their own language.

- while encouraging the child to establish and foster contact to other children who talk German or other languages.
- while they let their child report on what they learn in HSK-classes and at school.
- while they foster contact with HSK-teachers and public school.

Organisation

HSK-teaching is offered by the embassies of the countries of origin or by private organizations. Classes are offered according to respective language groups from kindergarten onwards, 1st and 2nd primary school. Registration takes place through public schools (with the exception of Berne).

Normally HSK-teaching takes place within the premises of the public school, if possible close to where the child lives.

HSK-teaching tends to take place according to time specifications of public schools (Holidays, school reporting).

Performance evaluation will be attached to school reporting.

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