



## Switzerland Basel-Stadt Schools where every Student is Valuable



Dear Readers,

The capital of Switzerland is Bern and it consists of 26 cantons. As in many areas, there are differences in education systems among cantons. There is no general “Swiss Education System”. Each canton has a different system and schools are subordinate to local governments in the cantons. Giving the cantons the right to determine their own school systems led to the development of different school structures in Switzerland.



Figure 1  
Ministry of Education (Erziehungsdepartement, 2022)

Basel is located in the region of Switzerland bordering Germany and France. The schools belong to the local government of the canton of Basel-Stadt and there is a Ministry of Education (Erziehungsdepartement). The Basel-Stadt school steps consist of kindergarten, primary school, secondary school, learning development school or high school, higher education. Schools are seen as learning organizations that constantly and meticulously improve themselves. Schools support diverse abilities based on achievement status emphasizing personal differences. In other words, in education, emphasis is placed on keeping the individual differences of children in the foreground.

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Schools direct children to the next school step in line with their interests and abilities. This guidance is not very strict. Depending on their development, children also have the opportunity to transfer between schools.

Schools support diverse abilities based on achievement status emphasizing personal differences. It offers personalized facilities. Education is student-centered. Efforts are made for the adaptation of foreign language children. It is aimed that individuals learn to solve problems, think and behave on their own. Parents are involved in the studies by trying to ensure the highest level of school-family cooperation. Schools are trying to open themselves to the business world and use new information and communication technologies in their lessons.

During compulsory education, students' books and notebooks are given by schools. Even stationery aid is given to students. Young people who have completed their 10th academic year are given a scholarship if their parents cannot afford them. Books are returned to the school at the end of the year. Students are held responsible for the safe and clean return of the books. Considering that it will contribute to the students' gaining responsibility, this is given importance. At school, much emphasis is placed on gaining responsibility, observing time and obeying the rules.

In Basel-Stadt schools, great importance is attached to school-family cooperation, and parents and schools are seen as responsible partners in children's school success. Parents are regularly invited by their classroom teachers to school visits, assessment interviews and parent meetings.

Basel-Stadt schools are semi-autonomous. They manage schools together with directorates, school administrators and school teachers. The colors and liveliness in the classrooms attract attention. In addition to technology, kindness was also tried to be included in the classrooms.

Children are admitted to classes in primary and secondary school, regardless of their abilities, achievements, social and cultural backgrounds, or mother tongue. Although every child is different and perceived differently, it is aimed to give everyone an equal chance of learning.

Talented children are supported in schools. Children's abilities are supported by offering personal or special opportunities during the lesson. However, gifted children cannot be detached from classroom environments with varying levels of achievement.

Sincerely,

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