

The school system in Baden-Württemberg

In Baden-Württemberg, the school system covers 12 or 13 years of school. This is divided into

1. four years of primary school,
2. five or six years of secondary level 1 and
3. three years of secondary level 2.

Secondary level 1 is offered in various types of school and may be completed with an examination.

Secondary level 2 ends with the Abitur examination (officially: university entrance qualification). The Abitur can also be taken at various types of school.

It is compulsory to attend school between the ages of six and 18. Attendance at primary school usually begins for all children who turn six by 30 June of a given year when the following school year starts. Anyone who begins vocational training in a company on completion of secondary level 1 also attends a vocational college.

Full information about the school system is available at www.wegweiser-bw.de/en/videos.

Marking and the points system

There are two different marking systems in Baden-Württemberg. In primary school and secondary level 1, the system of marks from 1 to 6 applies, where 1 is very good and 6 is inadequate. To pass an exam, you must get a mark of at least 4 (adequate). The same system is also used in colleges and universities. Additional decimal places are used for differentiation here (e.g. 1.3 or 2.7).

No marks are given in years 1 and 2 of primary school and years 5 to 7 of comprehensive school. Instead, teachers describe in words what the child can do.

There is a different system in secondary level 2. This consists of 0 to 15 points and is also used in the Abitur. The points correspond to the marks from 1 to 6.

Grade	Mark	Points system	University
very good	1+	15	0.7
	1	14	1.0
	1-	13	1.3
good	2+	12	1.7
	2	11	2.0
	2-	10	2.3
satisfactory	3+	9	2.7
	3	8	3.0
	3-	7	3.3
adequate	4+	6	3.7
	4	5	4.0
	4-	4	4.3
unsatisfactory	5+	3	4.7
	5	2	5.0
	5-	1	5.3
inadequate	6	0	6