**The German school system**

Germany consists of 16 different states with each state having its own educational system.

That means that we have got **16 different educational systems** and it varies where you live.

To give you some **examples**:

In some states students start learning English in

grade 1, in some states elementary school runs from grade 1-4, and in others from grade 1-6.

Teachers may have difficulties in changing their job to another state since each state may require different qualifications.

**General information:**

All the students must go to school for 12 years.

Kindergarten is not compulsory

The students have a different timetable every day.

Teachers must stud and teach at least 2 subjects.

Teachers may be forced to teach subjects they have not studied.

Usually the students go to school in the mornings (about 8am to 1pm).

There are some changes meaning that schools have also lessons in the afternoons during the week (especially Gesamtschulen/comprehensive schools)

There is no school at the weekend.

Each week entails 20-29 lessons at primary school and 28-32 lessons at secondary level.

A lesson usually lasts 45 minutes.

Foreign languages are very important. The students must learn at least one language. Foreign languages are considered as main subject like Math or German. Students learn English, French, Spanish or Latin (sometimes even Russian or Greek). English or French is already taught at primary school.

Gesamtschulen gain great popularity among German parents since their children are taken care the whole day.

**Compulsory Education**

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| **Grundschule (primary education)** | **6-10 years of age (grade 1-4)**  **6-12 years of age(grade 1-6; Berlin &Brandenburg)** |
| **Lower secondary education**  **-Hauptschule (low level)**  **-Realschule (medium level)**  **-Gymnasium (high level)**  **-Gesamtschule (comprehension school)** | **10/12-15/16 years of age** |
| **Upper secondary education**  **-Gymnasium**  **-Gesamtschule** | **15/16-18/19 years of age** |