

## Multilingualism in primary/secondary schools and further education

**The new decree on “school support for multilingualism”** implements rules that affect the offer of first language classes. Speaking multiple languages is an advantage for the personal development and social participation which is acknowledged by the regulation.

**Children who master their first language have less difficulties when learning German!**

Studying the first language is supposed to build up and improve the child's abilities of the language. The participation in this programme is voluntary. If parents want to register their child for a class in the first language, they need to contact the school.

### Important Information for parents:

- There is a minimum of eight pupils that are needed to start a class for one language (primary school). There need to be 18 pupils or students at secondary schools and colleges in order to start a first language class. It is possible to combine different grades in one class to meet the minimum amount of pupils needed.
- Schools should inform you about the offers and opportunities of a class in a first language when children first start going.
- If the school already has a class in your child's first language then you can register it through a registration form.
- If the school does not offer a class in your child's first language then you need to look for other parents with children that speak the language. You need to meet the minimum number of eight pupils required so that you can hand the list of children to the school. The school then applies for a class in this language at the regional Office for Schools and Education (RLSB).
- Depending on your child's year grade the participation in a first language class can be mentioned or marked in primary school.
- At secondary schools and colleges the first language course can either be offered as an optional subject or as a study group in the afternoon.
- If there are any problems in starting a first language course, parents can turn to the regional Office for Schools and Education (RLSB) themselves.

## Additional links

### General Information and Registration forms in different languages

<https://bildungsportal-niedersachsen.de/sib/mehrsprachigkeit-interkulturalitaet/erstsprachenunterricht>



### Decree on multilingualism

[https://men-nds.de/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/SVBl\\_12\\_24\\_RdErl.-Mehrsprachigkeit.pdf](https://men-nds.de/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/SVBl_12_24_RdErl.-Mehrsprachigkeit.pdf)



### Regional Offices for Schools and Education (RSLB) – language education centres

<https://bildungsportal-niedersachsen.de/beratung-unterstuetzung/onlineportal-bu/sprachbildungszentren>

