

What is a full-time school?

Around 75% of schools in Lower Saxony are full-day schools, meaning they provide education and care throughout the entire day. A typical school day lasts approximately 8 hours. Full-day schools can be non-mandatory, partially mandatory, or fully mandatory. Most schools offer non-mandatory full-day care.

Non-mandatory full-day schools:

There are no scheduled educational classes in the afternoon, but voluntary after-school activities are available for children to attend.

- However, if you enroll your child in a full-day program, they are usually required to participate in the after-school activities for at least one half-term.

Partially mandatory full-day schools:

- On some days, there are scheduled afternoon classes that students must attend. On other days, there are optional after-school activities available in the afternoon.

Binding full-time schools:

- Mandatory classes are spread throughout the day.
- Students have to attend all classes.

Starting from August 1, 2026, all first graders in Lower Saxony will be entitled to receive 8 hours of education and care each day (full-time).

How do full-time schools work?

Full-time schools include a lunch break, during which pupils can either get food from the school or bring their own. There is also time allocated for homework and studying, where teachers supervise and support students. The classes offered in full-time schools are often chosen based on pupils' interests, such as music, arts, or sports. These schools frequently collaborate with external partners to provide these specialized classes.

Advantages of full-time schools

- **Support and Activities in Full-Time Schools**

Pupils receive individual support while studying and doing homework. They complete all their work at school, which allows them to spend more time at home with family and friends. Schools offer a diverse range of classes and projects that are fun for pupils, giving them the opportunity to try new things, discover their strengths, and explore their interests.

- **Shared and Healthy Lunches**

Schools provide healthy lunches that pupils can share.

- **Benefits for Parents**

Full-time schools help parents with better and easier time management, making it easier to balance work, participation in integration programs, and household responsibilities.

How much does a full-time school cost?

Attending a full-time school in Lower Saxony is free of charge. The only expense parents need to cover is the cost of a school meal (lunch). If needed, these costs can be reimbursed through the *Bildungs- und Teilhabepaket* (BuT) program.