

Parents or Legal Guardians

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Framework Requirements for School Operations until 14 February 2021 and During the Homeschooling Phase “Lernen von zuhause”

Learning Support During “Lernen von zuhause” and Performance Evaluation in the Second Half of the School Year 2020/21

Dear Parents,

Dear Legal Guardians,

Dear Sirs/Madams,

The resolutions resolved by the Prime Ministers of Germany’s federal states together with the Chancellor on 13 December 2020 and 5 January 2021 included tightened measures with massive restrictions for schools in order to counteract the sharp increase in infection rates at the end of last year. It is now apparent that these measures have reduced the number of new infections with the SARS-CoV-2 virus, but more recent findings about mutations of the SARS-CoV-2 virus must also be taken into account.

In this respect, the Saarland state government decided on 21 January 2021 that the regulations for schools in Saarland regarding the **suspension of mandatory attendance will be extended until 14 February 2021.**

The schools therefore will continue to offer adapted educational support for grades 1 to 6 in the morning and a voluntary all-day school program (FGTS=Freiwillige Ganztagschule) in the afternoon. In justified individual cases, this will also be open to pupils in higher grades, for example if there is no workspace at home that is conducive to learning.

Furthermore, the special **regulations for students in their final school year** remain in place:

- Classes will take place at the school in person for all students who will take the exams for the general higher education entrance qualification (Allgemeine Hochschulreife) at the general and vocational schools this school year, as well as for all students from the general schools who will take the exams for the secondary school leaving certificate (Hauptschulabschluss) and the intermediate school leaving certificate (mittlerer Bildungsabschluss).
- At the vocational training centers, the examination classes and final classes of the technical colleges (Fachoberschulen) and technical schools (Fachschulen) will continue to receive in-person instruction.

The spatial capacities will, of course, be used in accordance with the requirements of infection protection measures.

During the upcoming winter holidays (15-19 February 2021) there will be holiday care for the students registered in the voluntary all-day school program (FGTS), as long as this is provided for in the school year plan. The offer for holiday care applies – as in the Christmas holidays – in particular to children who cannot be looked after at home. Registration for participation in the **holiday care** should be submitted to the school [by 9 February](#) .

Due to the prolonged suspension of in-person teaching, **the homeschooling aspect (“Lernen von zuhause”)** has become increasingly important. The schools are therefore required to implement **framework requirements** in order to provide students with proper learning support during the homeschooling phase.

- The important thing is that school participation continues to be mandatory for your children. Therefore, they are required to take part in the teaching and learning phases specified by the teachers and work on the assignments given in this context. If this is not possible due to illness, in particular, your child is to be excused according to the procedure provided by the school.
- Homeschooling is a particular challenge for all students. Close learning support by the teachers and regular individual feedback for the individual students are both important aspects and it is essential that they are supported. The students will thus be regularly offered various options for consultation and exchange (e.g. telephone calls, digital consultation hours, video conferences, individual in-person consultation appointments) with the teachers.
- If your school has designed learning support with the help of digital media, for example via the Online Schule Saarland OSS learning platform and you do not have a digital device for your child, please contact your school directly to obtain a rental device.

- We would like to inform you that, when using the OSS, the recording function, which is integrated in the video conference system Big Blue Button, is deactivated. Therefore it cannot be used to secretly record what is happening on the screen. In general, filming the screen using another device, e.g. a smartphone, is not allowed and constitutes a criminal offense. The same is also not permitted during in-person lessons in the classroom. There is, however, nothing wrong with – in compliance with data protection and personal rights – taking screenshots of worksheets or other tasks if this appears necessary for their completion.

When **in-person teaching resumes**, the timeframe of which remains uncertain, the focus will initially be on the socio-emotional re-introduction of the students in the school. During the in-person lessons enough time will therefore be set aside to sufficiently repeat and go into more depth on the learning objectives. The focus will not be on the immediate completion of performance assessments (Leistungsnachweise).

The Ministry of Education and Culture has therefore decided that students are generally allowed to fall short of the minimum number of large (GLN=große Leistungsnachweise) and small (KLN=kleine Leistungsnachweise) performance assessments specified for the 2020/21 school year.

All schools are required to make clear the school-specific implementation of the home-schooling phase and the regulations for performance evaluation to their students and their legal guardians.

With regard to the performance evaluation in the homeschooling phase “Lernen von zuhause”, the following rules apply:

- In the homeschooling phase “Lernen von zuhause”, there will be no “written exam” (Klassenarbeiten and Kursarbeiten).
- Small performance assessments (KLN) (e.g. protocols, learning diaries, presentations, weekly schedules) are possible during the homeschooling phase “Lernen von zuhause”, such as can also be implemented through at-home preparation during in-person teaching.
- Large performance assessments (GLN) (except for written work) can in principle also be carried out as an alternative form of performance assessment during the homeschooling phase (“Lernen von zuhause”) (e.g. in the form of presentations, portfolios, oral exams), such as can also be implemented through at-home preparations during in-person teaching.

- The forms of performance assessments (Leistungsnachweise) that are provided by individual students can vary.
- Whether and in what form a performance assessment (Leistungsnachweis) will take place is decided by the teacher using special pedagogical judgment, also regarding the different learning conditions at home and the different technical accessibility of the students in the homeschooling phase “Lernen von zuhause”. The teachers will ensure that the students always have the possibility of direct feedback prior to a performance assessment (Leistungsnachweis) (e.g. video conferences, individual in-person appointments, consultations, telephone calls, individual consultation appointments) so that questions are clarified, learning content is processed and the performance evaluation is made transparent.
- The schools will inform the students separately about the regulations for performance evaluation in the upper level GOS (Gymnasialen Oberstufe).

For the next school year 2021/2022, the students will be given enough time in the next grade level to adequately deal with possible learning deficits.

As the infection situation remains quite turbulent, it is currently impossible to make a reliable forecast about when and how things may open up. In the week before the winter holidays, the Prime Ministers will again meet with the Chancellor to make decisions on possible openings. We will quickly evaluate these decisions and inform you as early as possible about further requirements for school operations after 22 February 2021.

We would like to thank the entire school community and you in particular for your valuable contribution in overcoming the challenges of the pandemic together.

Kind Regards,

On behalf of



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