



# Baden-Württemberg

MINISTERIUM FÜR KULTUS, JUGEND UND SPORT

Dear parents,

it is our great pleasure to welcome you to Baden-Württemberg. To assist you in getting oriented here, we would like to inform you about a topic which is very important to us and – I am sure – to you too: The education of your children.

Every young person in our country has the right to be educated. Therefore, education at public schools is free of charge – irrespective of where a student comes from. However, not only is education guaranteed by law, it is also compulsory. This means that all children and young people have to go to school. For your child, compulsory education begins six months after arriving here from a different country. Your child may attend school earlier than that, if you so choose.

A good command of the German language is the first step towards getting integrated in our country. Therefore, we consider it very important that your child learns the German language as quickly as possible. To provide the necessary framework we set up classes for young refugees at many schools. These classes are especially designed to help young people learn German. The next step for them will be to move on to the regular classes to prepare for acquiring a school leaving certificate.

For children below the age of six, we recommend enrolling them in a kindergarten. This will give your child the opportunity to learn the language and become friends with other children. Moreover, it will prepare your son or daughter for attending school later.

If you have any further questions concerning school or kindergarten, the staff members of refugee support and social services in your place of residence will be pleased to assist and advise you.

The fact that the responsibility for the education of our children is shared by parents and school calls for a partnership based on trust. For this reason, I would like to conclude by expressing my wish for a fruitful cooperation – with our children's best interests in mind and at heart.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andreas Stoch'.

Andreas Stoch  
Minister of Education, Youth and Sports  
of the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg