

Dear Parents,

Your child will be required to attend school this year. This marks the beginning of a new phase of life that places new demands on your child, both physically and mentally.

Age-appropriate health development is an essential prerequisite for successful school attendance. In addition to physical and mental development, this also includes social behaviour.

At the same time as enrolling in school, your child will therefore also undergo a paediatric examination by your health authority's Child and Youth Health Service.

This examination will determine before enrolment whether your child has developed in an age-appropriate manner or whether any diseases or developmental delays will play a particular role in the enrolment procedure at primary school and whether your child therefore needs special support.

In this flyer, we would like to provide you with information about the examination upon starting school and answer any questions so that you can look forward to the new phase of your child's life.

We wish you and your child a good start to school and a successful time at school.

Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Integration, and Consumer Protection of the State of Brandenburg

The examination upon starting school

Every child is different. Some children go into the consulting room without hesitation, others hide behind their mum or dad.

Some parents also go to the examination upon starting school with mixed feelings and are often very stressed about it. They are unsure whether their child has developed in an age-appropriate manner and what their child should be able to do.

What happens at the examination upon starting school? What should my child be able to do? What should I take with me? So many questions – and we would like to answer them on this short flyer to make sure everything is clear.

Which children are required to undergo the examination upon starting school?

- all children who have reached the age of six by 30th September and
- children who were born after the deadline of 30th September and for whom early school enrolment is desired

The presence of a custodial parent is required.

When and where does the examination upon starting school take place?

The examinations usually take place between November and April for the following school year.

The date for the examination upon enrolment will be determined by the health authority in consultation with the school. You will be informed in good time and will receive a corresponding invitation.

The examination usually takes place in the responsible primary school or at your health authority.

Why can't the doctor who normally treats your child perform the examination?

This responsibility was assigned to the Child and Youth Health Services of the health authorities by law in order to ensure a uniform and independent examination. The nationwide standardised implementation makes the examinations comparable.

What documents are required?

- the completed parent questionnaire, which you will receive in advance
- the vaccination certificate or other vaccination documents,
- the preventative measures booklet for the under-thirteen examinations,
- certificates such as a severely disabled person's pass, allergy pass, heart pass, etc.,
- prescribed aids such as glasses (glasses pass), hearing aid
- any previous findings or recommendations by doctors or therapists treating the child

What is the goal of the parent questionnaire?

The examining doctor needs to obtain comprehensive information about your child's health status. Therefore, the parent questionnaire asks, among other things,

- what illnesses your child has had,
- whether your child has any chronic diseases, in particular allergies,
- whether your child has had surgery or has suffered a serious accident,
- which support or therapeutic measures your child receives

In addition, questions about behaviour are asked.

The information in the parent questionnaire is voluntary and subject to medical confidentiality.

What happens to all the data?

The personal information collected during the examination is recorded in a standardised manner on the basis of the Brandenburg Health Service Act and in compliance with data protection regulations. In addition to determining the individual state of health and development, the examination data forms the basis for health reporting by municipalities and the state. The data is evaluated anonymously for this purpose. The health reporting highlights health-relevant facts, trends, and needs for action. The results are used for health policy decisions, as well as for health promotion and preventative measures. Selected data can be consulted at www.gesundheitsplattform.brandenburg.de.

What does the examination include and how long does it take?

During the consultation and with the help of short tests, the doctor will get an idea of your child's developmental status.

The examination will include:

- Recording the child's medical history using a parent questionnaire
- Reviewing the preventative care booklet for under-thirteen examinations
- Measuring the child's weight and height
- Recording the vaccinations received on the basis of the vaccination certificate and a recommendation to make up for missing vaccinations if necessary
- Performing a sight and hearing test
- Assessing the linguistic and motor development, as well as cognition on the basis of various tests,
- Assessing emotional and social development in the examination situation, such as ability to concentrate, attention, and willingness to learn
- Physical paediatric examination

The examination takes about 30 to 45 minutes.

Following the examination, the test results and findings will be discussed with you. In the event of abnormalities and problems, the doctor from the Child and Youth Health Service will be happy to advise you. If necessary, further medical evaluations or the required treatment and support measures will also be recommended.

The results of the examination will be summarised in a „school medical statement“, which will be presented to you to acknowledge and sign. This contains information that is important for the school and information on the development and health of your child. This information will be taken into account in order to prepare individual support measures for your child, to determine their chair and table size, as well as to find the right seat in the classroom. The school medical statement also includes a recommendation for enrolment or postponement from a medical point of view. It will be forwarded to the school responsible and will be taken into account when the headteacher decides to admit the child or defer admission.

What are the decisive legal bases for the examination?

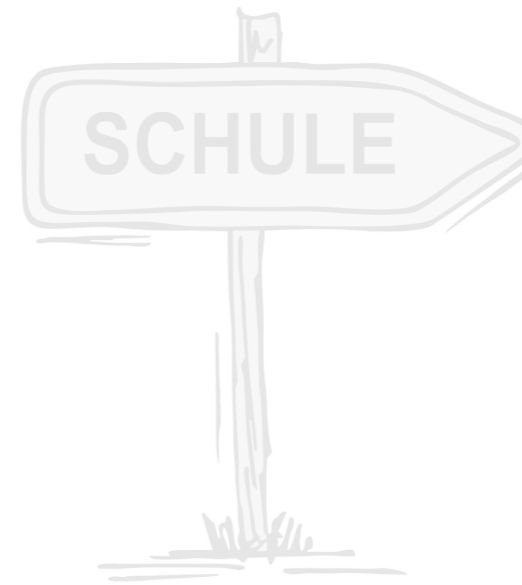
Brandenburg School Act, § 37 (2002); Primary School Ordinance of the State of Brandenburg, § 4 (2007); Brandenburg Health Service Act, § 6 (2008); Ordinance on the Responsibilities of the Child and Youth Health Service (2009)

AND A FEW FINAL TIPS

- Make sure that their filled school bag does not weigh more than about 10% of your child's body weight.
- Give your child a healthy breakfast to take to school.
- Make sure your child wears weather-appropriate clothing and gets sufficient outdoor exercise.
- Practice a safe route to school with your child. Make sure your child wears reflective clothing in the dark season.
- Information on vaccination can be found e.g. at www.impfen-info.de

Contact details:

Your health authority:



Publisher:

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LGB (Landesvermessung und Geobasisinformation Brandenburg)

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Starting school fit and healthy