



Dear Parents

Young people who don't start a further school or an apprenticeship directly after their nine compulsory years of school are at risk to miss the choice of occupation and the moment of getting started with a job. The following page will inform you as parents about how to successfully plan the transition from school to vocational training.

You have a daughter or a son in the 7th, 8th, 9th or 10th class. Your son or your daughter has to now choose an occupation or further school. Sometimes, this is in fact not so easy, although the school and the careers guidance office (*Berufsberatung*) support the young people with the choice of a vocational training. The responsibility lies with the young people themselves and also with you as parents. Thus, together with your children, you have to be very active yourselves to find a good solution. It is very important for the young people that the father and/or mother help as much as possible.

How Does the School Help?

In the 8th and 9th class, the school prepares the pupils for the choice of an occupation or a further school. Ask the teacher what exactly is done at school.

The Swiss Educational System and Vocational Training System

The training for a specific job in Switzerland could maybe look quite different than in your country of origin. Here, for only a small number of jobs you have to go to high school and then to university. Most young people in Switzerland learn their occupation after the compulsory nine years at school in a basic vocational training, a so-called apprenticeship (*Berufslehre*): They do their training for three or four years in a business (practical work) on the one hand, and on the other hand they still go to school where they learn theory. There are about 250 occupations in Switzerland which can be learnt that way.

How Does the Careers Guidance Office (*Berufsberatung*) help?

The careers guidance office (*Berufsberatung*) http://www.bbe-bs.ch/jugendliche_eltern/unsere-dienstleistungen/berufs-und-laufbahnberatung of the Canton of Basel-Stadt, Rebgasse 14, 4058 Basel, phone 061 267 86 82, offers information and one-to-one appointments. It supports you with the choice of occupation and informs you about the different possibilities that exist for your child. Furthermore, the careers guidance office has information on how to get an apprenticeship at all and which firms offer apprenticeships. All this is free for young people. The content of conversations is treated as confidential.

What Can You Do Yourself?

The following link <http://www.berufsberatung.ch/dyn/8188.aspx#a9344> informs you in your language about the different possibilities of what you and your child can do yourselves concerning the choice of occupation.

In order to choose an occupation or a further school, it needs time to think about it and time to consider different variations. Please take your time for this important step in the life of your children. Your sons and daughters need your support.

May you and your children do well!