



Educating all learners effectively - the “ALLE” project

Information for parents

Recognising, applying and developing strengths

Secondary school aims to best prepare each and every young person for vocational training or further education. To achieve this goal, German and maths skills are of vital importance. Studies comparing European countries show that reading and maths skills among young people in Switzerland and the county of Zurich after nine years of school are above average. The results also show, however, that by the end of compulsory education, not all students have managed to acquire the level of language and maths skills they need for further education or for their everyday working life. To address this, the education authority, together with various secondary schools, is piloting ways in which under-performing students in particular can benefit from more focused support and encouragement.

The „ALLE“ project

Both the quality of teaching and a student's own engagement can have a great impact on how effective learning can be. In a pilot project focusing on „active time to learn and effective learning for everyone“ (the „ALLE“ project), experts are trialling ways in which students can improve their maths and German skills. The goal is for students to fill any gaps in their learning (focus on maths and German) and thus be well prepared for vocational studies and further education.

The secondary schools involved in the pilot project are encouraging and challenging under-performing students by using the following methods:

Basic skills in German and maths

Making the most of German and maths lessons

In maths classes, students develop their skills in areas that are important for their career choices (apprenticeship/vocational training). They can focus on the basics and have enough time to practise and revise what they have learned. In German lessons, under-performing students can benefit from specially designed reading or writing training.

Specially designed teaching materials

Teaching materials for secondary schools build on what students have already learned at primary school, without going over these topics again. If students have any gaps in their learning, they may find it difficult to fully meet the demands of secondary school. That's why it is important to work with students to fill in any knowledge gaps using specially designed teaching materials.

More time to learn and assisted homework study

Under-performing students often find it difficult to do their homework on their own. That's why the „ALLE“ project has introduced compulsory support with homework. It also increases individual study time for students. The support is primarily focused on German and maths exercises. Effective work and study skills are also developed. Homework study is part of the students' timetable and a teacher is on hand to assist students. As many students as possible should take advantage of this opportunity.

Involving classroom assistants

By assigning classroom assistants, the „ALLE“ project is able to strengthen the support and guidance students receive. Having an assistant also means the teacher can work with students on their existing knowledge and learning needs at a more individual level. On the other hand, the assistant can guide individual students as agreed with the teacher. Assistants, however, should not take on responsibility for any learning needs individual students have.

Strengthening student engagement

What does the “ALLE” project mean for my son/daughter?

Around ten schools are taking part in the „ALLE“ project, including your son's/daughter's school. The project aims to ensure that as many students as possible succeed in attaining basic maths and German skills. Even though the project focuses on struggling students, everyone should benefit from the measures taken. In lessons that cater to individual learning needs, gifted and talented students also receive support and guidance that is tailored to their performance levels. The aim therefore is to support both struggling and gifted students according to their needs.

If a student is finding it difficult to attain basic skills in maths or German, their teacher can organise a parent-teacher meeting – with the student – to discuss reducing the amount of study material, and decide on individual learning goals and the methods by which these can be achieved.

By attending various training courses, teachers are specially qualified to support young people's learning even more effectively. They are also able to provide students with continuous feedback on their progress, thus increasing student engagement. An explicit goal of the „ALLE“ project is that all students can benefit.

Edition notice

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