



## Intercultural interpreters at schools

### Information for parents

#### Dear parents

Parents' involvement in schools is very important. You can best support your child if you actively take part in talks at school. Topics and situations that come up at school can often be complex. Intercultural interpreters enable communication between the school and parents whose knowledge of German is basic to intermediate.

#### Who are intercultural interpreters?

Intercultural interpreters are specially trained and have a good knowledge of German and another language. They translate talks between the teacher and parents in full and correctly. Intercultural interpreters know the differences between the school system in Switzerland and the system in your home country. This allows them to explain the similarities and the differences between the two education systems to you and your teacher. Intercultural interpreters are neutral and respect the confidentiality of the talks.

#### When would you recommend involving an intercultural interpreter?

You or your child's teacher can suggest involving an intercultural interpreter for important talks at school. Intercultural interpreters are especially helpful for the following situations:

- Starting kindergarten or primary school
- Parent-teacher talks about your child's level of learning and how to support your child's learning
- Report card talks
- Decisions about next steps in your child's education (decisions about transferring classes/schools)
- Talks to assess your child's current level and any special requirements they have
- Important questions about children's learning and upbringing
- Talks about career paths for young people

The school organises intercultural interpreters for parent-teacher talks and the school authority covers the costs.

#### Further important information for parents

- Visit the education authority's website (see the 'International' section) for translations in 10 languages of further important information about the education system for parents: <http://www.vsa.zh.ch/translations>
- The DVD „Schools in the county of Zurich“ from the Zurich teaching materials publisher is also informative. You can find additional material to accompany the DVD (printed documents and other) here: <http://www.vsa.zh.ch/dvd>