



INFORMATION EVENT

ON THE TRANSITION FROM PRIMARY TO LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL,
I.E. FROM “**GRUNDSCHULE**” TO “**WEITERFÜHRENDE SCHULE**”

This is one of many identical information events in the city.

We present the same information
in (easy) English
for non-German speakers.



German school diplomas
at a glance



Recommendation of the
primary school



Types of schools



Registration procedure



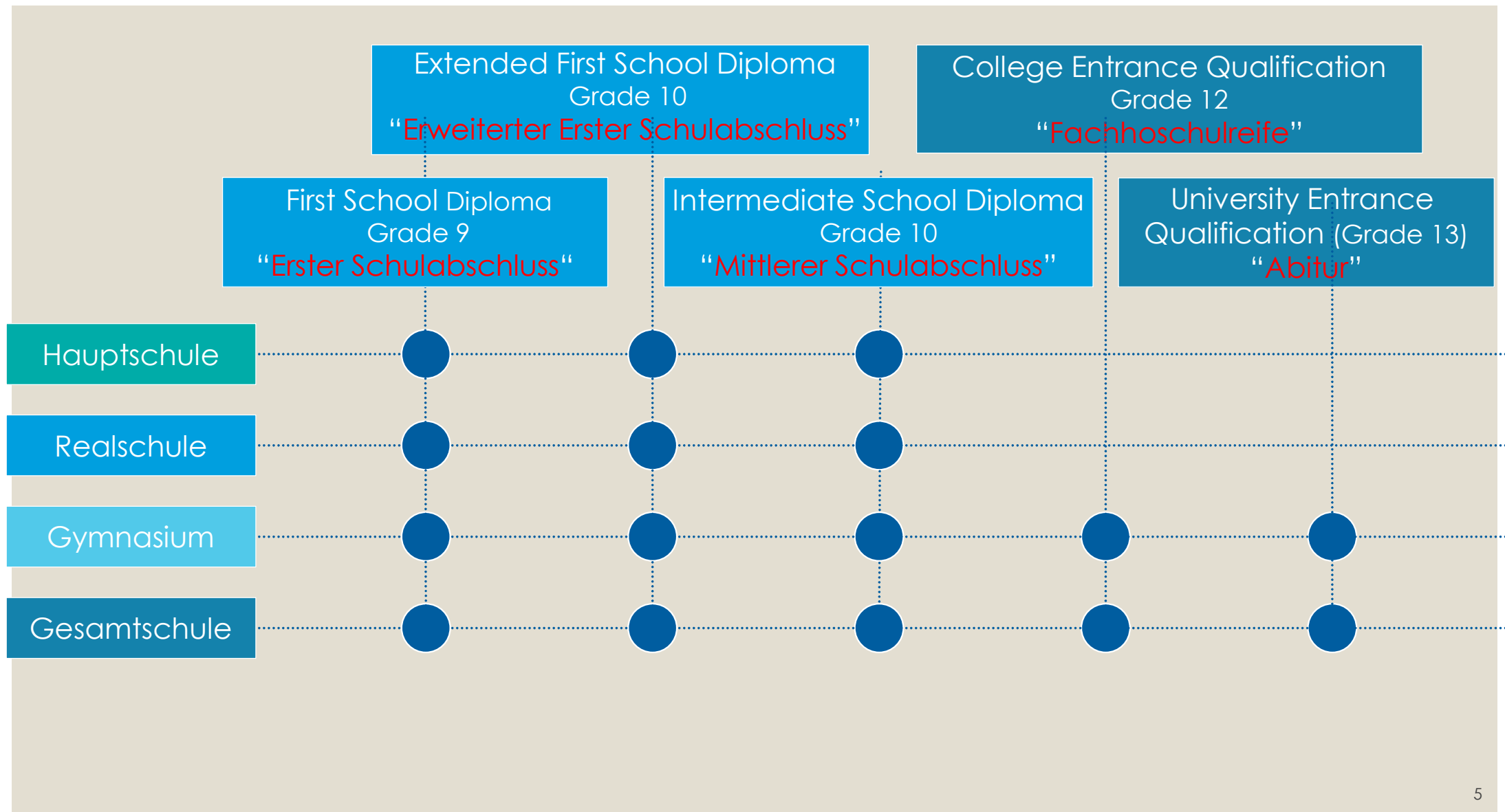
Other aspects

WHAT TO EXPECT





SCHOOL DIPLOMAS AT A GLANCE





RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Recommendation as a process

Advice

- Personal conversation with class teacher and parents

Recommendation

- Part of the mid-year report card for grade 4

Recommendations



Recommendation
for different types
of schools

Hauptschule
Realschule
Gymnasium



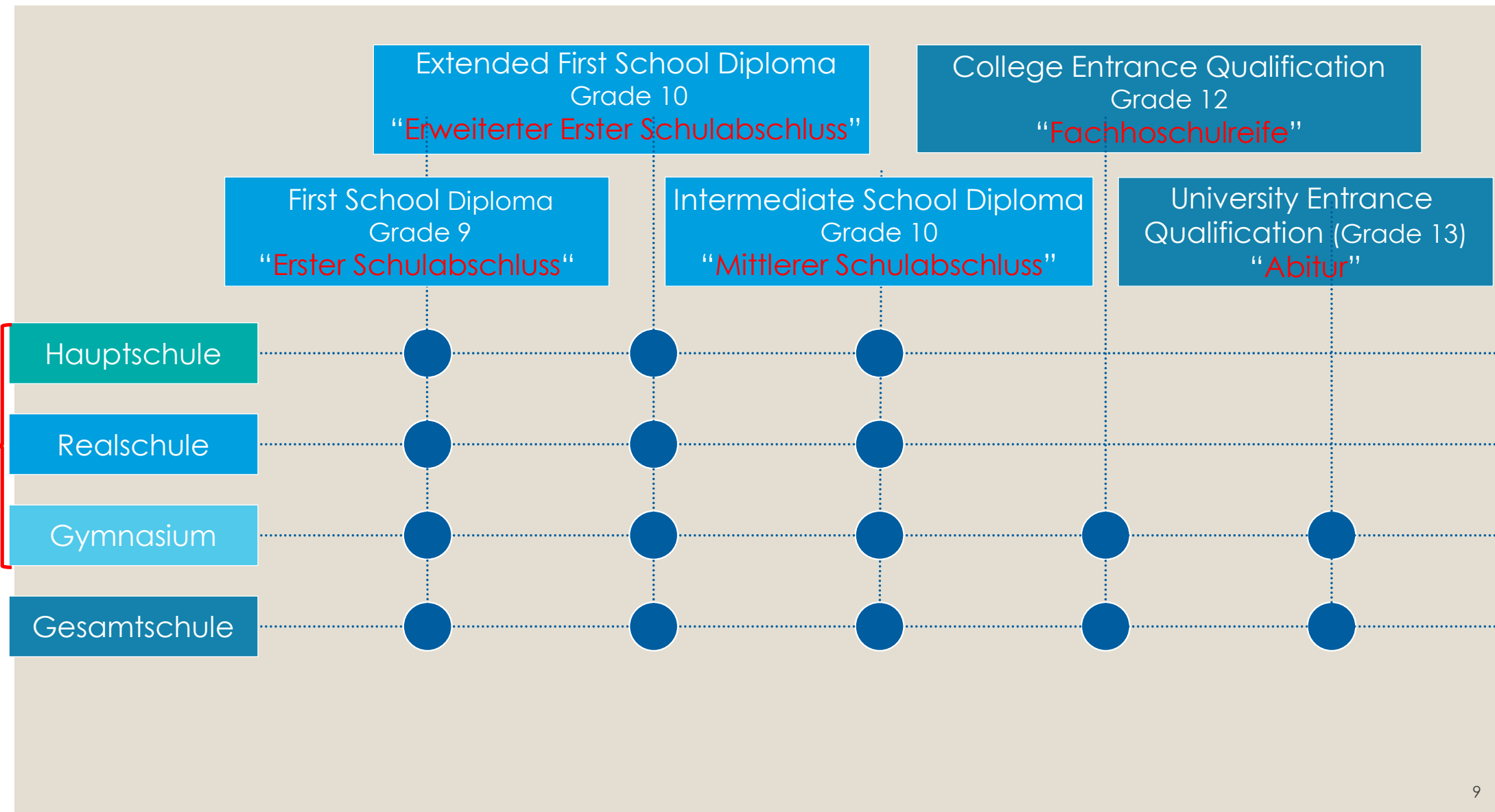
Possible second school type
named with restrictions
("eingeschränkte Empfehlung")



No guarantee of admission to a
comprehensive school
("Gesamtschule")

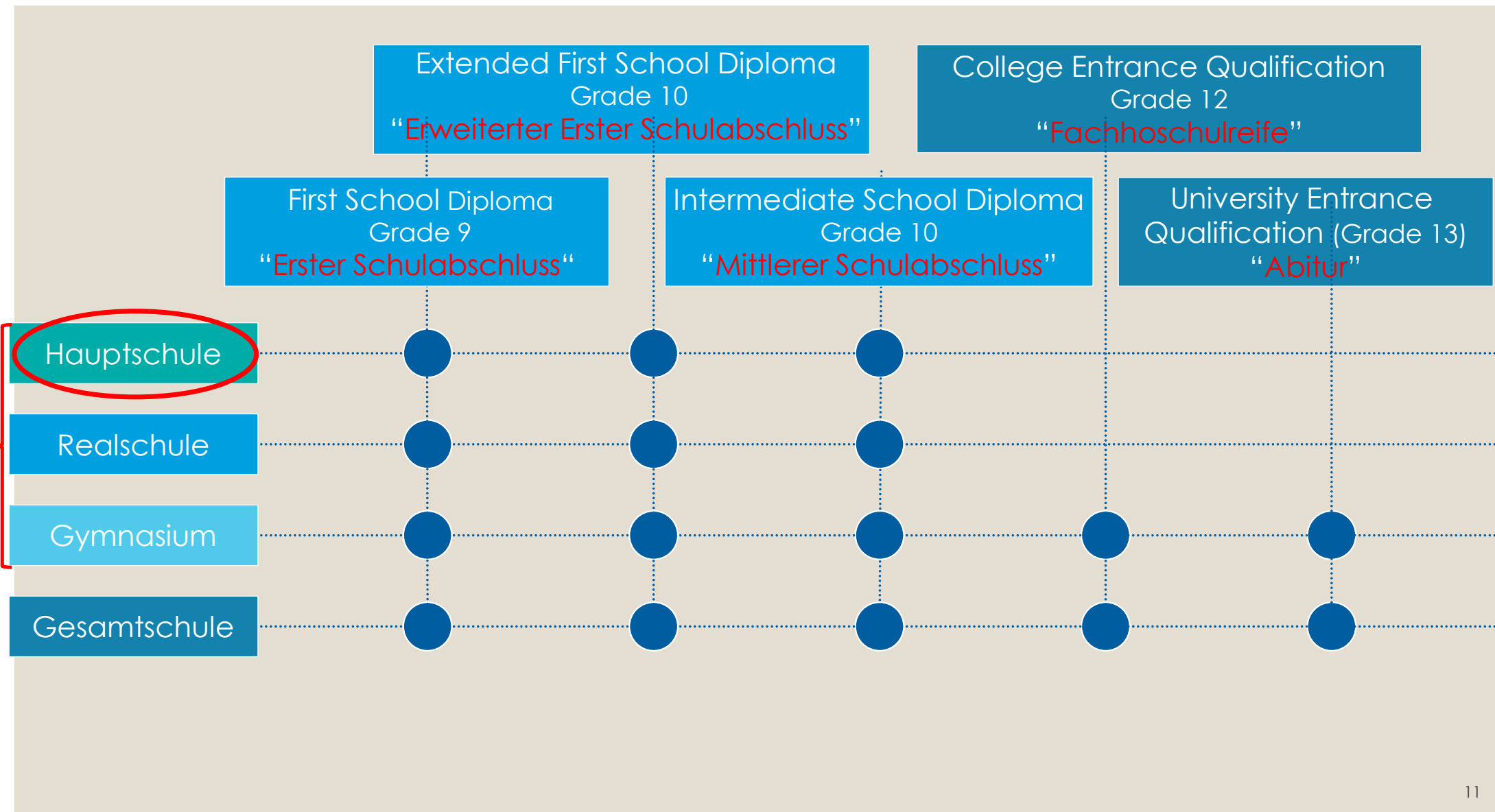


No guarantee of admission to a
specific school



HAUPTSCHULE

7 HAUPTSCHULEN IN DÜSSELDORF



General education and career orientation



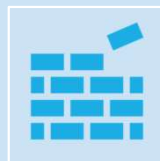
Career orientation

Prepares for various professional fields.
Aims at practical experience.



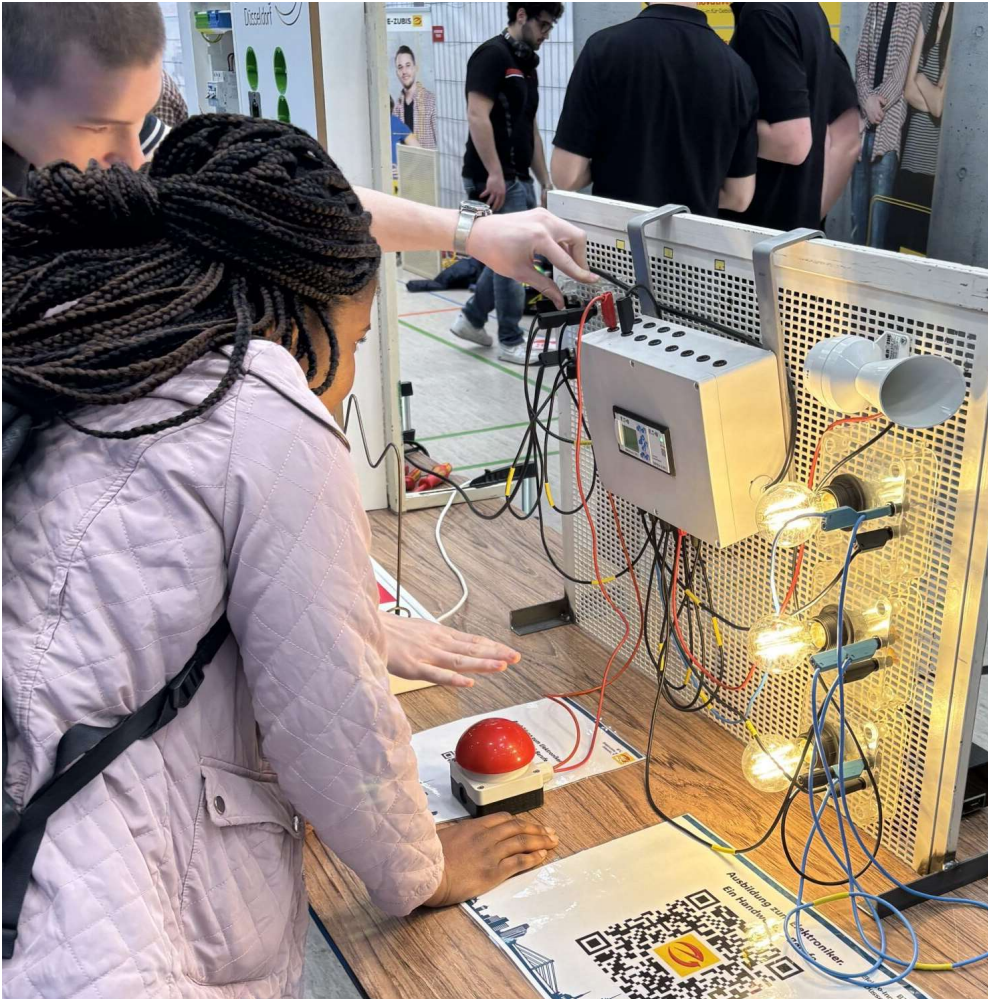
Life planning

Helps with personal development and gives orientation for the future.



Practical orientation

Application of theoretical knowledge.
Promotion of practical skills.

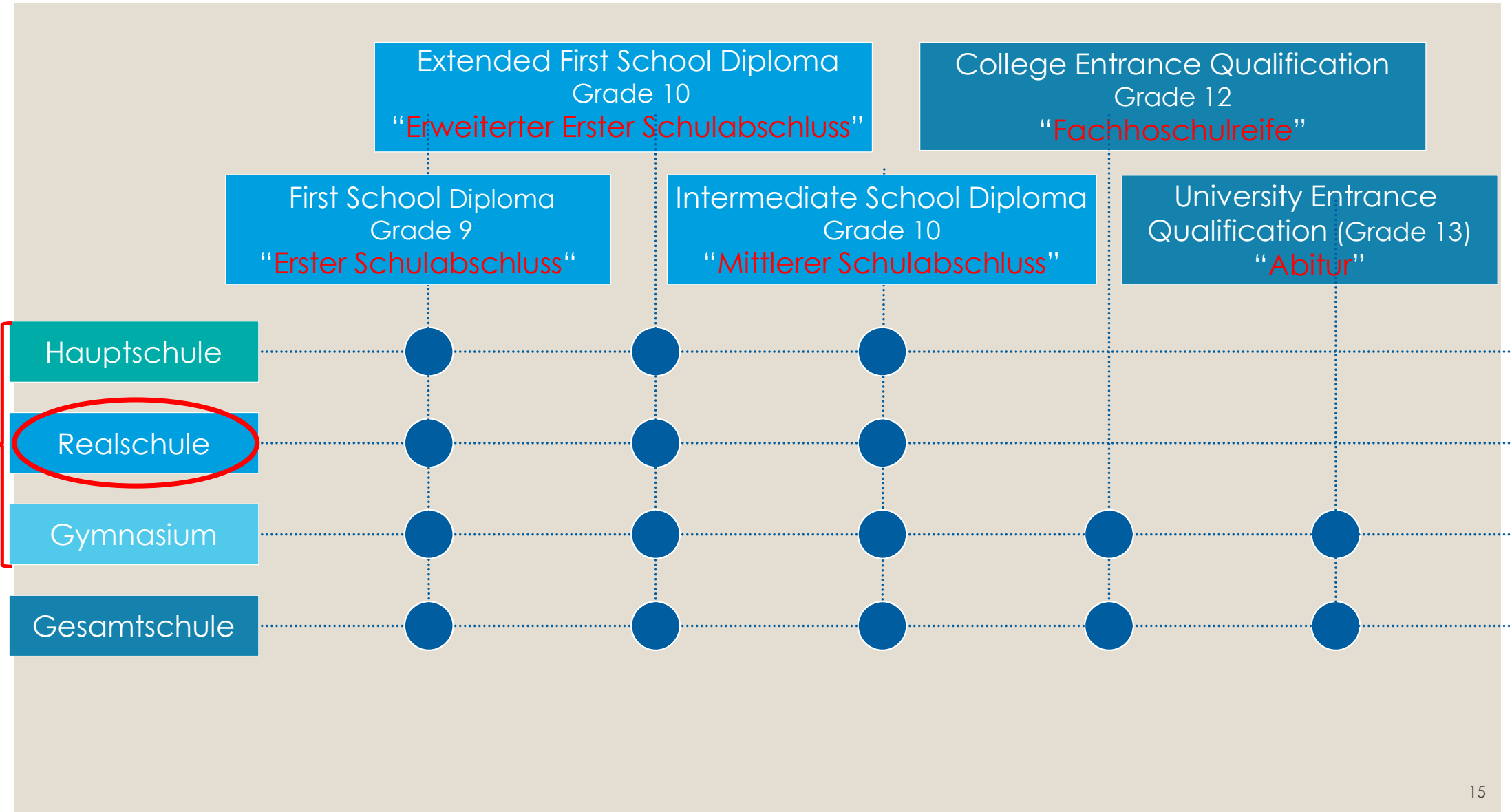


Student internships

Three student internships offer a valuable opportunity for career orientation, especially for vocational training.

REALSCHULE

14 REALSCHULEN IN DÜSSELDORF

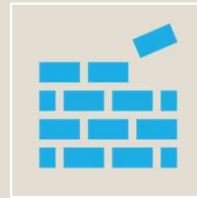


Practical and theoretical support



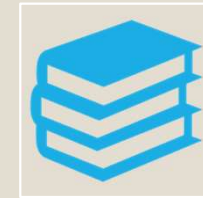
Extended general education

Craft skills
In-depth knowledge in
various subjects
Foundation for further
education



Practical skills

Craftsmanship skills
Technical skills



Theoretical connections

Scientific fundamentals
Mathematical concepts

Career-oriented skills

- Preparation for vocational training
- Acquisition of practical skills

Options for switching after grade 10

- Vocational training
- Academic pathways of secondary schools



Options starting from grade 7

Introduction of another major subject from different fields

Foreign language

- French

Sciences / Technics

- e.g. Biology

Social sciences

- e.g. Politics

Music / Art

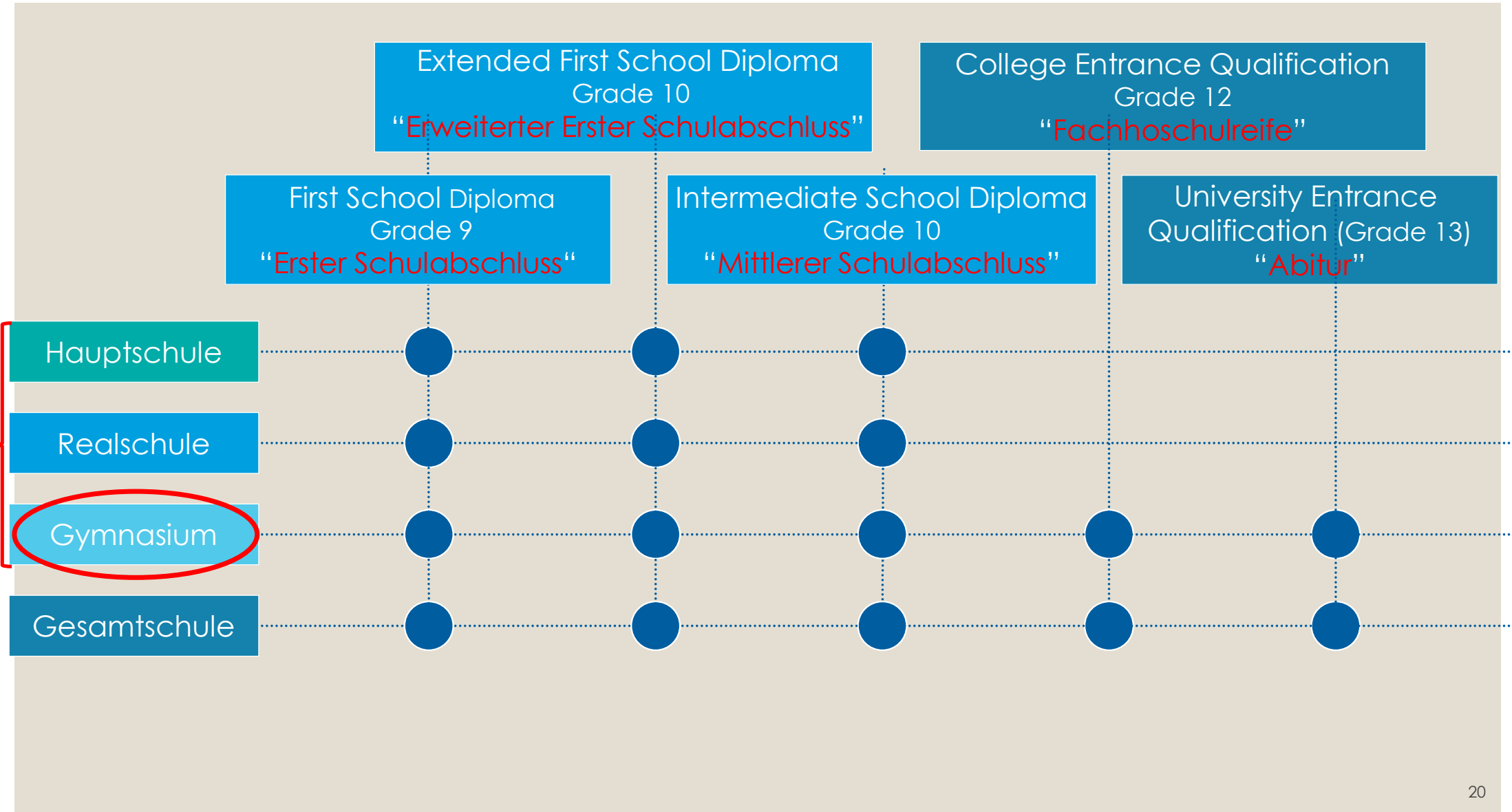
- e.g. Arts

Athletics

- P.E.

GYMNASIUM

25 GYMNASIEN IN DÜSSELDORF



Goal: Abitur (\approx British A-levels)

Continuous academic pathway

usually after nine years



In-depth general education

Promoting comprehensive knowledge

Development of critical thinking



Preparation for university studies

Acquisition of necessary qualifications

Foundation for academic success



Qualification for vocational training

Career orientation

Requirements

Complex problem-solving and critical thinking abilities



Abstract thinking

Ability to derive general principles from specific cases



Analytical thinking

Ability to systematically examine information



Critical thinking

Ability to question arguments and information

Options starting from grade 7 :

second Foreign
Language

Options starting from grade 9 –
depending on the school's special profile, e.g.:

third Foreign
Language

Computer
Sciences

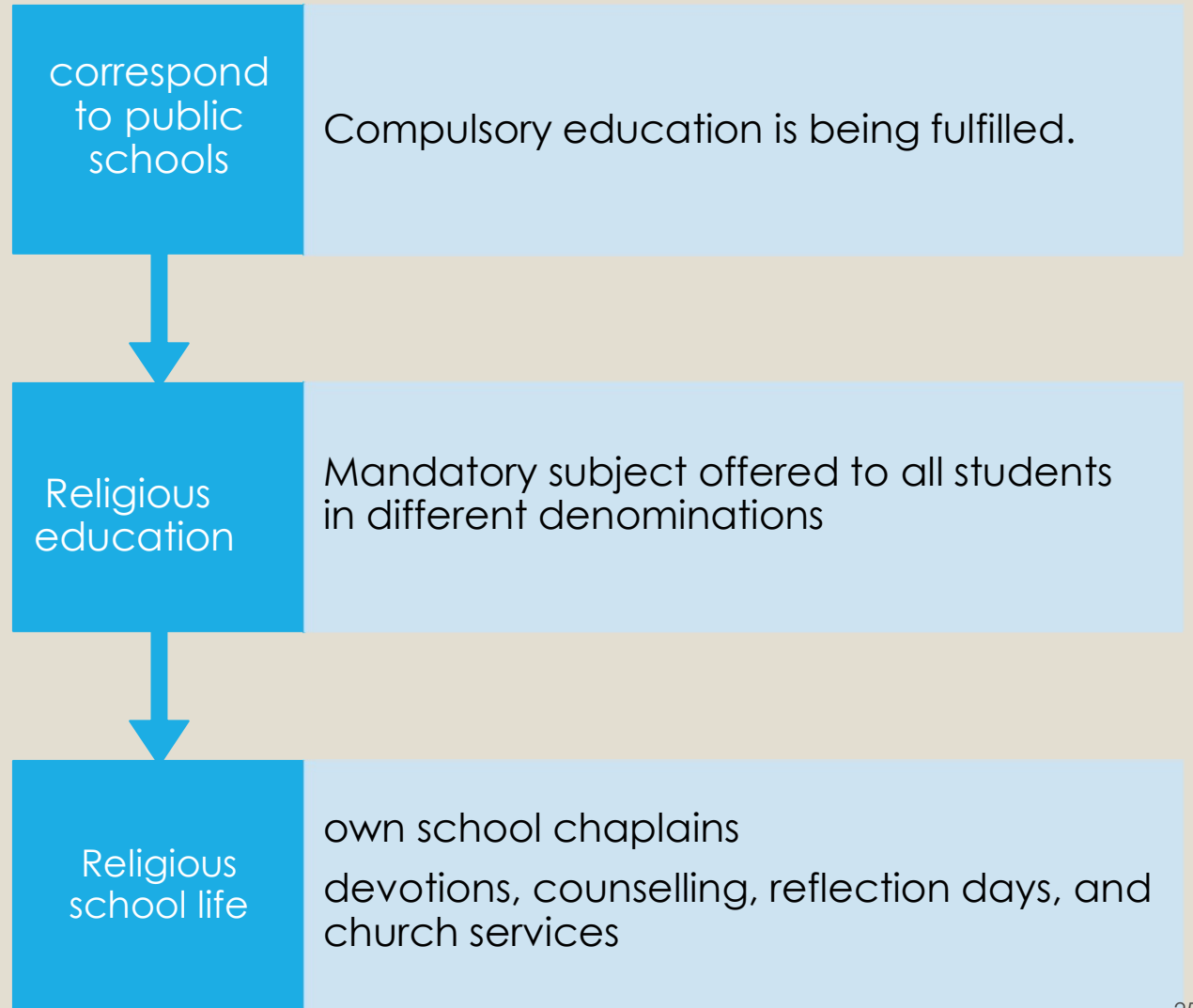
further Natural
Science

additional
Social Science

PRIVATELY SPONSORED SCHOOLS

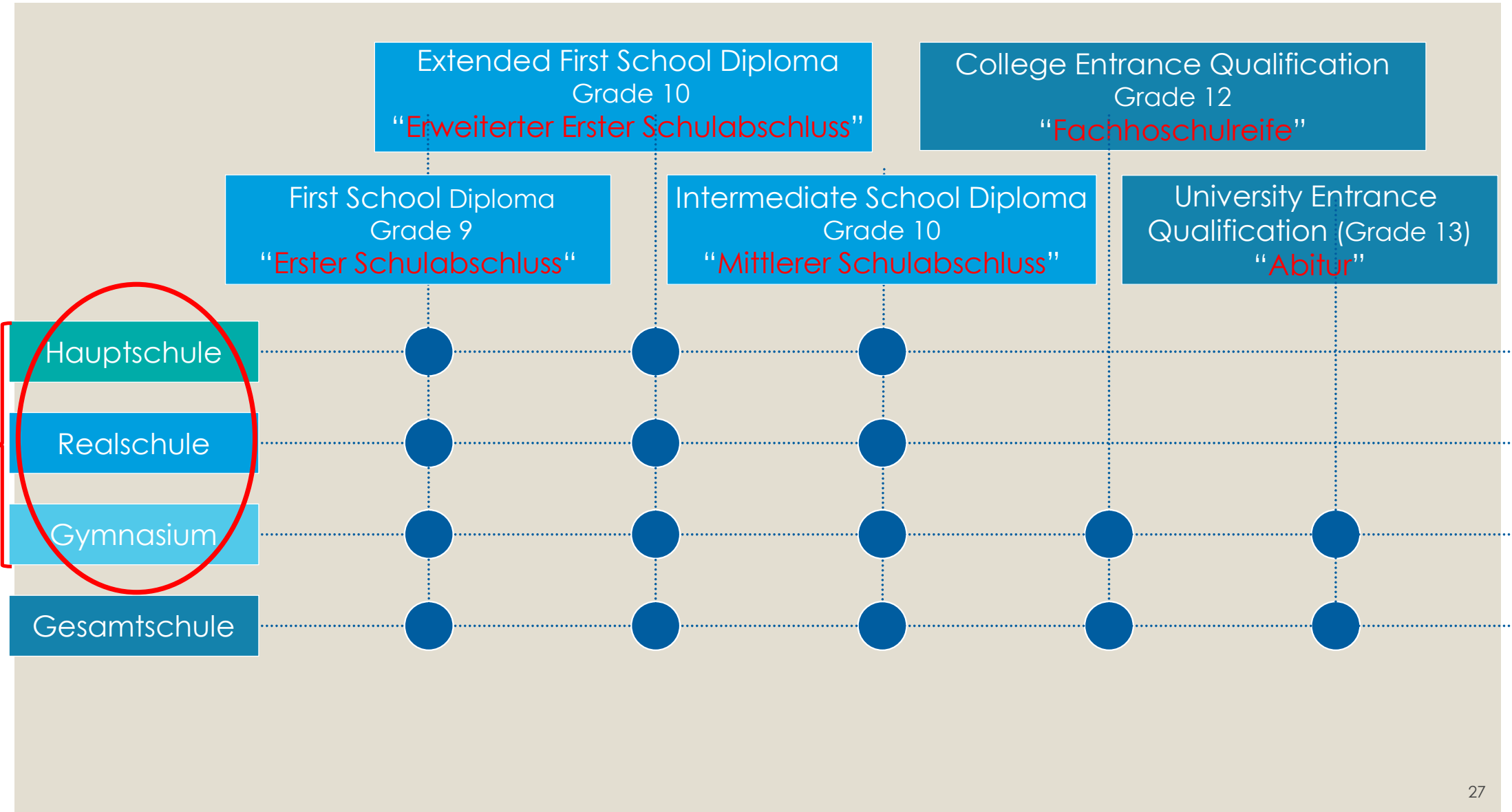
Alternative schools

e.g. church as sponsor



ERPROBUNGSSTUFE (TRIAL PHASE)

2 yrs for adaptation and trial phase
at Hauptschule, Realschule and Gymnasium.





Transition from grade 5 to 6

No transfer decision into the next grade necessary

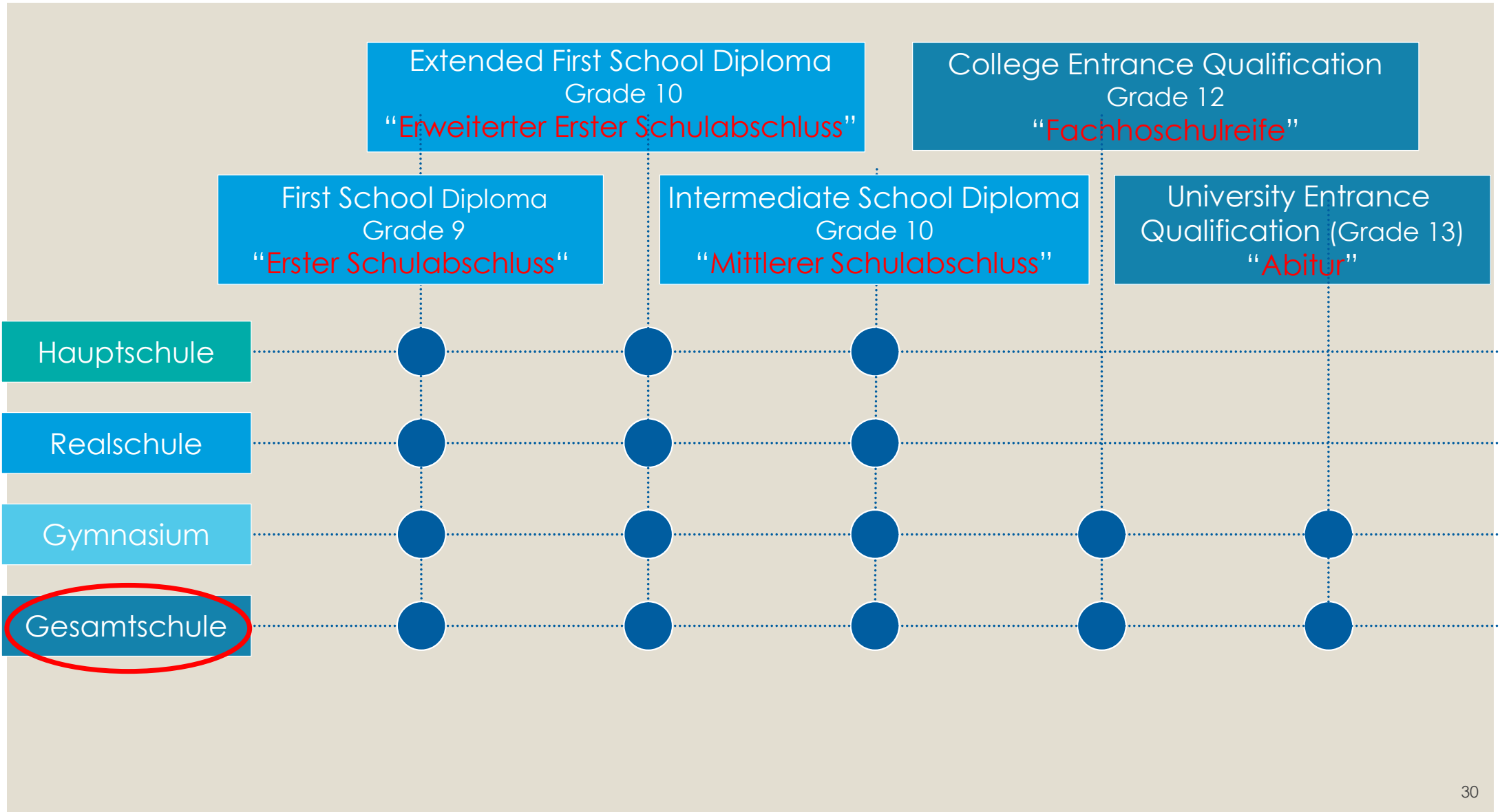


Decision after grade 6

Based on the grades, the school decides on the school type remaining? changing?)

GESAMTSCHULE

8 COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS IN DÜSSELDORF



Longer
joint learning

GESAMTSCHULE

- ✓ promotes children of all performance levels
- ✓ keeps diploma decision open for as long as possible



Compulsary full-day schools

“Gebundene
Ganztagschulen”

Special educational concept

- All comprehensive schools in Düsseldorf are full-day schools.

Education and care

- The schools offer education and full-day care, at least three days a week.

Extent

- “Full-day” includes at least seven hours (i.e. until around 3 pm)

Particularities



Advancement to the next year without formal promotion

Up to grade 9



Different levels of professional performance

Different learning prerequisites and abilities



Career orientation

Preparation for various professional fields.

Focus on practical experiences.

Options starting from grade 7

Introduction of another major subject from different fields

Foreign language

- French

Technology / Business Studies

- e.g. Technology

Natural Sciences

- e.g. Biology

Music / Art

- e.g. Arts

Athletics

- P.E.

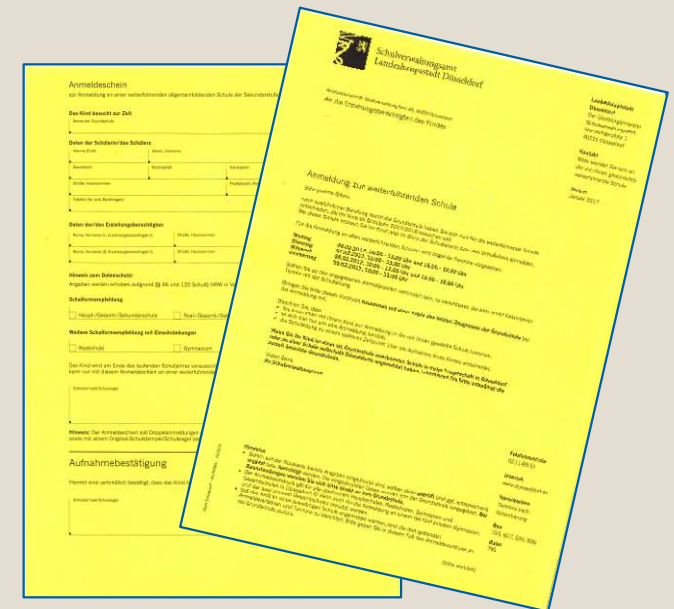


REGISTRATION PROCEDURE



Registration form and appointments

- Legal guardians receive the documents with the mid-year report card.



Do not copy!
Central collection of data!

Registration dates for the municipal schools

09.02.2026

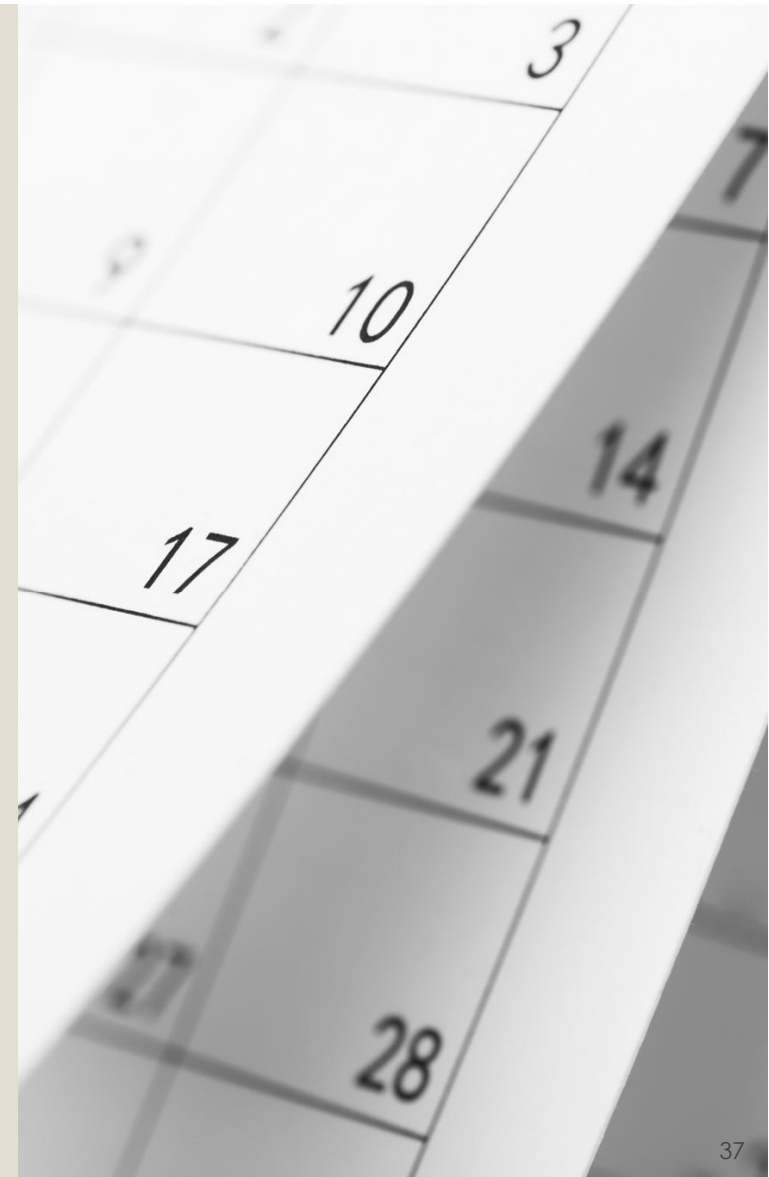
Registration possible from 7:30 am to 7:00 pm.

10.02.2026

Registration possible from 7:30 am to 7:00 pm.

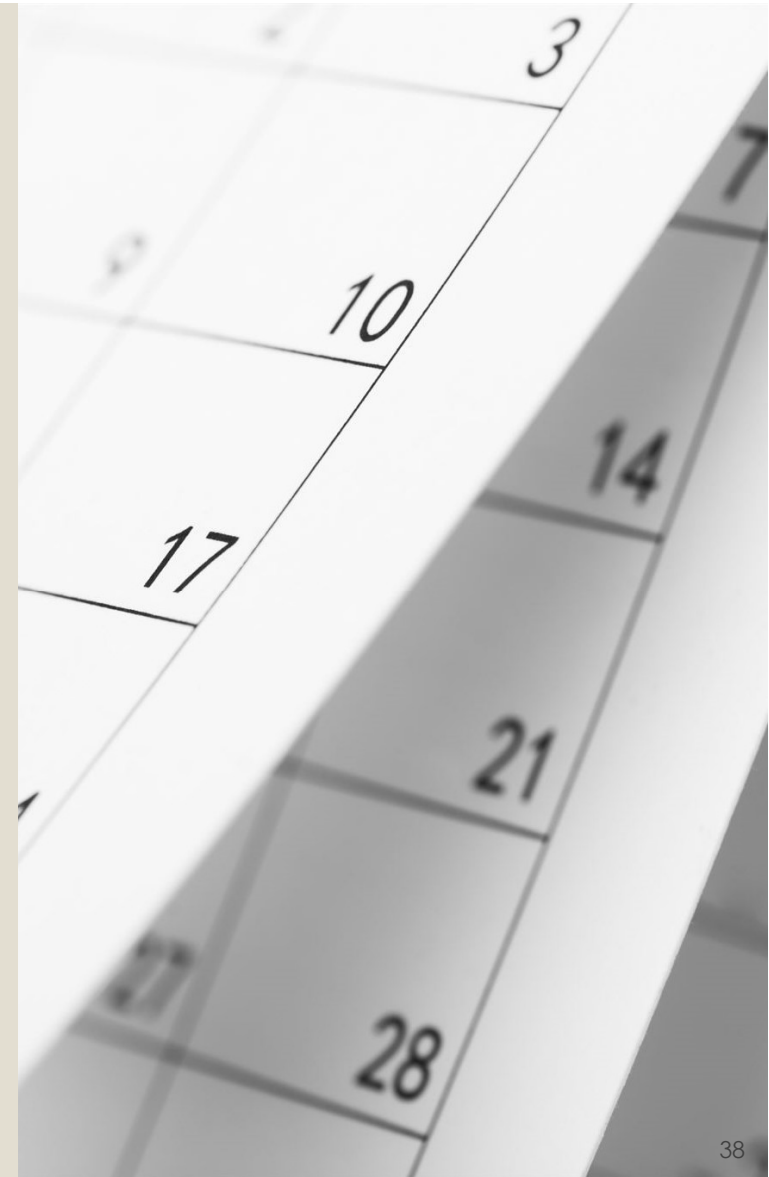
11.02.2026

Registration possible from 7:30 am to 12:00 pm.



Please...

- ... book an appointment (via homepage).
- ... book only one appointment.
- ... cancel it in case you change your mind.
- ... inform the current primary school if you plan to enroll
 - in a private school
 - in a privately sponsored school
 - or in a school outside of Düsseldorf.



Decision on admission

Decision of the head of school

about the child's admission to the school:



If the number of registrations exceeds the capacity

specific criteria are applied:



Criteria for school admission

Siblings

Gesamtschule:
according to performance groups

Lottery



FURTHER ASPECTS

Compulsory all-day school in lower secondary education



mandatory participation

All students must participate in the full-day program.



full-day offers

At least three days a week.

Includes at least seven hours.



Lunch provision



- Warm meals are offered at many schools.
- The prices for lunch can vary.
- “Education and Participation”: Free Lunch





THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!