

Corona virus: Classes at all schools will be suspended until Easter break

Minister Gebauer: The statewide suspension of classes is a precautionary measure to contain the coronavirus outbreak.

The Ministry of School and Education of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia announces:

Düsseldorf, March 13, 2020. The state cabinet has decided today to suspend classes for all schools in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia beginning Monday, March 16, 2020, until at least the end of Easter holidays on April 19, 2020.

Minister of Schools and Education Yvonne Gebauer said: "Today, the state government made a significant decision affecting the everyday lives of many families. The suspension of classes impacts not only the students, but the parents as well as the teachers and school administration.

Based on the current understanding of the coronavirus situation the cancelation of classes is necessary and appropriate. This precautionary measure is intended to further contain the spread of the coronavirus. Reliable childcare will be offered to parents in professions that are responsible for public services, particularly in the healthcare sector. This will ensure the functionality of not only the health system but also sustain and support further services of public interest."

The Education Ministry will continually inform all schools within North Rhine-Westphalia about the arrangement and organization of the aforementioned childcare, as well as further developments as the situation changes and for information concerning the upcoming examination procedures.

Currently the following information is available:

- The early termination of classes from March 16 to the end of Easter holidays generally have no effect on the dates of the forthcoming high school graduation examinations, since the vast majority of the schools and students have, up to this point, completed their pre final secondary-school examinations (Vorabiturklausuren) necessary for admission to the Abitur exam. Flexible regulations and rewrite dates will be offered in order to ensure that all students can take their exams.
- The schools will be promptly informed on how to deal with other exam formats; for example: central exams in class 10 (Zentrale Prüfungen in Klasse 10; ZP 10), central exams in the introductory phase (zentrale Klausuren in der Einführungsphase; ZKE), assessment tests (Feststellungsprüfungen), and exams at vocational colleges (Berufskollegs).
- These school ministry efforts are aimed at ensuring that the students are not disadvantaged by these decisions in regards to their further school career or exams.

Schools and Education Minister Yvonne Gebauer declared: "All developments related to the corona virus are regular checked and the situation is being continuously reassessed. Decisions are being made in accordance with assessments of the current situation by the Robert Koch Institute and relevant health authorities. They have the necessary expertise and regularly share updates about the

risk situation to the entire population. The Ministry for School and Education is prepared to quickly react to new developments.”

The correspondence about the coronavirus response between the school authorities and principals, with which the Ministry of Schools and Education today informed all schools and school authorities in North Rhine-Westphalia, will be made available [here](#) shortly.

In addition, the Ministry of Education will promptly provide further information in the education portal. This will be available in several languages.