

# Country Report Austria

State of current developments

INNLAC Meeting 2018, Stockholm



 **Bundesministerium**  
Bildung, Wissenschaft  
und Forschung

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# Main Issues in Austria

- German remedial classes (German as a Second Language/language of instruction for migrants)
- Language-sensitive content teaching
- Competence-orientation in language learning
- „Schule 4.0“ (enhancing digital competence in the educational sector)
- Language Learning for Special Needs Students

## Deutschförderklassen / German remedial classes

- New government with new programme focusing on the **development of German skills** due to lack of skills in the language of instruction, incoherent funding and non-compulsory nature of measures (up to 11 hours in parallel to regular schooling)
- PIRLS 2016 test results show **widening gap in reading literacy** between children with and without migration background
- **Education standard test results 2016**: 60% of mother tongue German speakers reach standards, but only 36% of children with German as a second language
- Statistical data show that a quarter of students across Austria and half of the students in Vienna speak a mother tongue other than the language of instruction (German) in academic year 2016/17

# Statistical Data 2016/17

		<b>Austria</b>	<b>Vienna</b>
<b>Pre-school</b>			
	Kindergarten / Nursery school *	27,9%	63,5%
<b>All school types</b>		<b>25,3%</b>	<b>51,2%</b>
Primary Education (6-10)	Volksschule / Primary school	30,3%	58,5%
Lower Secondary Education (10-14)	Neue Mittelschule / New Secondary School	31,2%	72,8%
	AHS-Unterstufe / Academic Secondary School	20,4%	39,8%
Secondary Education (10-18)	AHS	20,3%	39,4%

\*The last year of nursery school has been compulsory since 2009 („pre-school year“).

Source: Statistik Austria

## Skills in German: Aims of measures

### Aims:

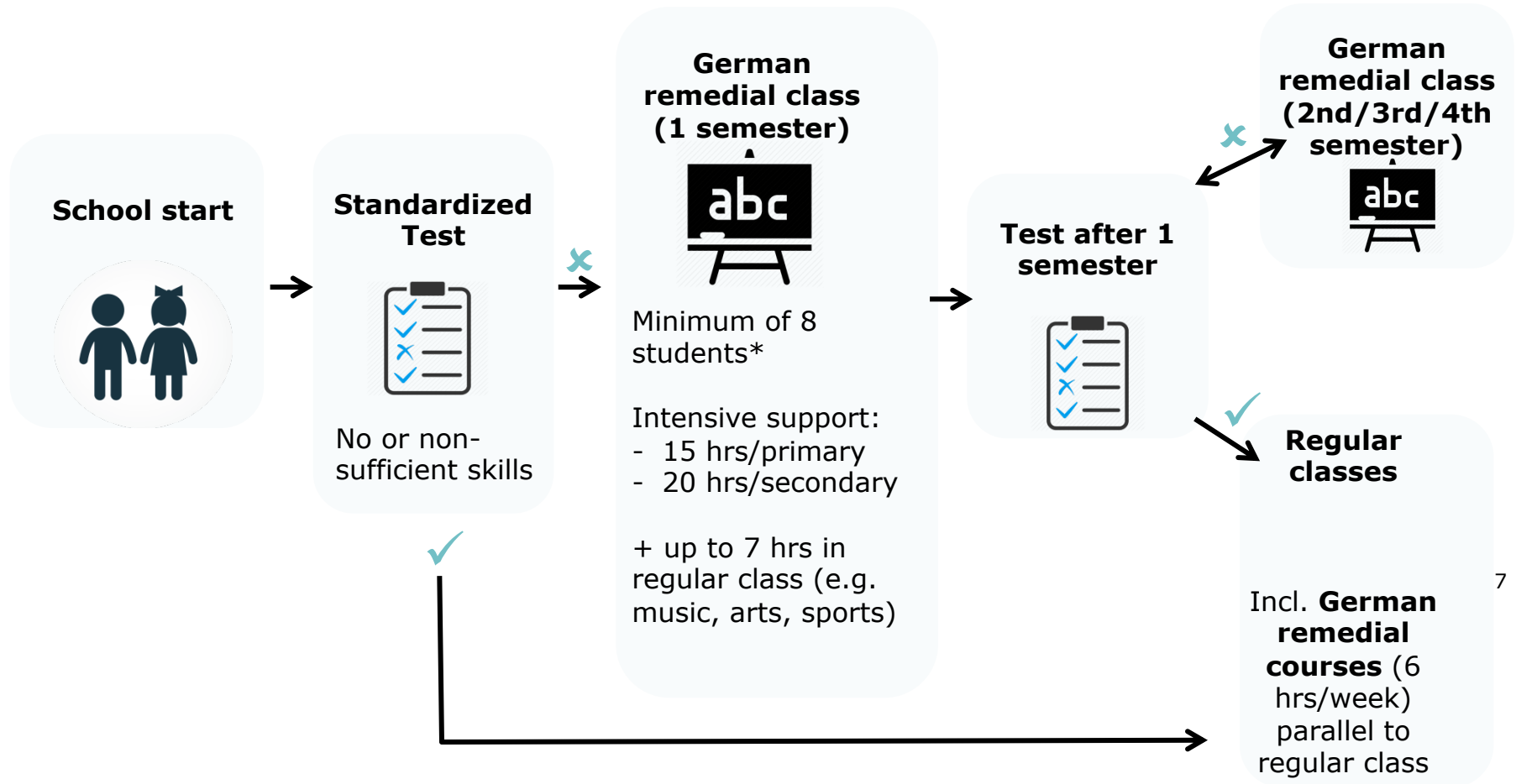
- 1) Systematic, intensive, compulsory German lessons for school students newly arriving in Austria or starting school
  - 2) Linked to school readiness assessment based on objective and transparent standardized testing format for German (from 2019 on)
- Need for **development of curricula** for primary level and lower secondary level and **standardized testing format** for German
  - Transition year 2018/19, full application of law from 2019/20
  - Ministry expects approximately 80 classes

# German skills: types of measures

- **German remedial classes:**
  - Students **without or non-sufficient skills** at school entrance or newly arrived students (linked to prior school readiness assessment)
  - **Minimum of 8 students**
  - **School autonomy** with regard to organisation of classes
  - 15 hours/week at primary level, 20 hours/week at lower secondary level
  - Upt to 7 hours per week in linguistically non-intensive subjects like arts, sports, music in regular class
  - Duration of **one semester** (maximum 4 semesters), testing after each semester
- **German remedial courses:**
  - Students with **sufficient skills to follow regular classes** but need for additional support (or after successful participation in German remedial class)
  - **6 hours per week**

# Structure of German remedial classes

Adapted from a graph in presentation from the Austrian Ministry of Education



\* If less than minimum number of students, integration into regular class with additional German lessons.

# Thank you very much for your attention!

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