

Sections 49 and 4Q – Grants for education and further training and quality analysis in schools

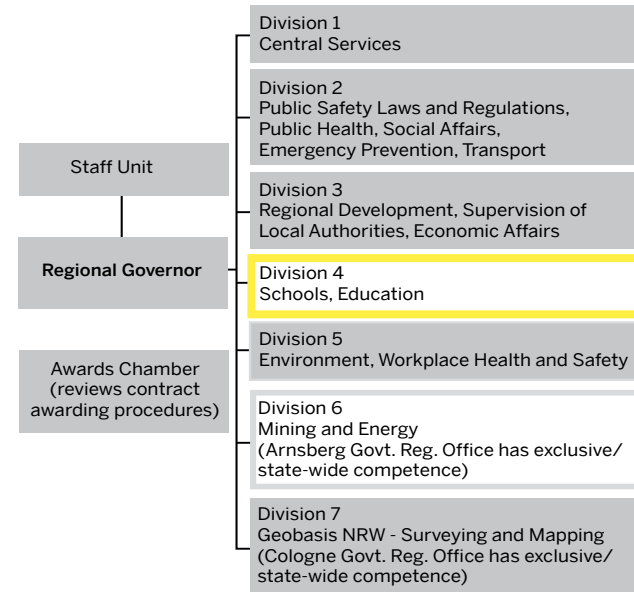
Section 49 is responsible for the implementation, at the regional government district level, of the provisions and regulations under the Federal Support for Education and Training Act and the Act governing financial assistance towards specialised further vocational training (e.g. grants for further training enabling a qualified skilled worker to become a master craftsman).

The key function of Section 4Q is carrying out quality analyses in schools (school inspections). Since 2006, such inspections have been conducted in all schools in North Rhine-Westphalia on the basis of a standardised procedure. The data and findings are used to develop tailor-made measures to assure and improve the quality of each individual school and, on top of that, to gain specific management knowledge for the school inspectorate in charge, school operators and the Education Ministry.

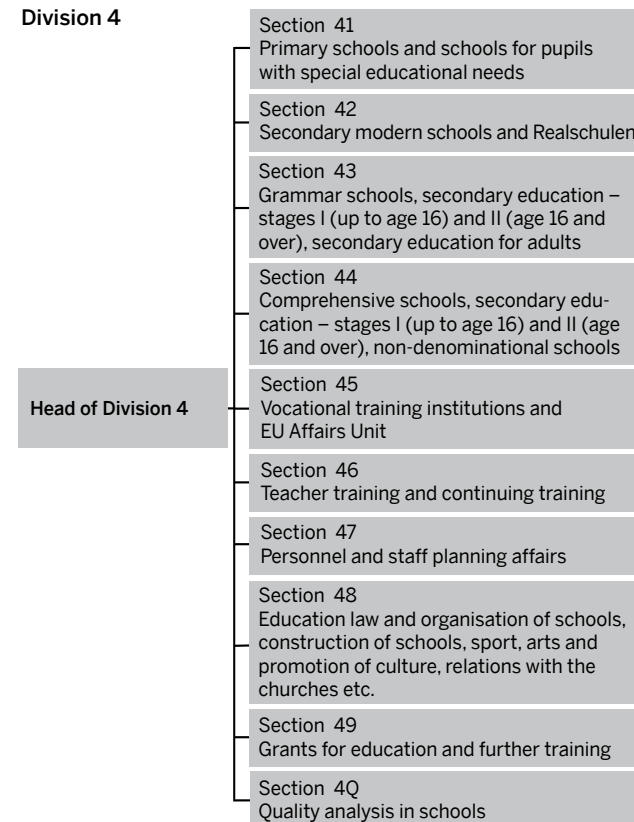
The key focus of the quality analyses is on the evaluation of lessons. A standardised inspection report setting out the results of the quality analysis is drawn up and made available to the inspected school, its operator and the school inspectorate in charge.



Organisational Chart



Division 4



We are there to help you

Education is a key task for the future of the people and the future of the region. The Schools Division of the Government Regional Office fulfils that task in many different ways. In its capacity as the higher school inspection authority, Division 4 supervises the local counties' and unincorporated cities' education authorities, the Centres for Practical Teacher Training, and the schools in the Cologne government district, providing advice and assistance in the performance of their functions. The Schools Division is responsible for over 45,000 teachers and is involved in their training and continuing training. Division 4 of the Cologne Government Regional Office plays a key role as a focal point and coordinator for a wide range of tasks in the sphere of school education. The staff of Division 4 will be pleased to offer their expert advice and support in all issues pertaining to this field.

Are you interested to learn more about the work of the Cologne Government Regional Office? We will be happy to send you more detailed information – just give us a call or email us:

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Promoting the Region. Providing Education for the Future.

Division 4: A Brief Outline



Sections 41 to 45 – Sections with responsibility for the various types of schools

In their capacities as school inspection bodies, Sections 41 to 45 help the schools in the Cologne government district to carry out their educational mandate and see to it that provision is diverse and comprehensive. In addition, they make sure that professional standards are met, contribute towards improving the quality of schools and provide expert assessments of objections against and appeals from decisions passed by schools.

Furthermore, the terms of reference of Sections 41 to 45 include

- examinations for certificates equivalent to certificates of successful completion of the first and second stages of secondary education (Sekundarstufe I and II) for candidates not attending a regular school
- rights of involvement for pupils and parents
- preparation for vocational training
- home schooling in cases of severe illness
- co-ordination of European projects in co-operation with the EU Affairs Unit of the Cologne Government Regional Office.



Section 46 – Teacher training and continuing training

One of the key responsibilities of Section 46 is to assure the quality of continuing training for teachers. This includes the ongoing professional development of the 1,000 or so teacher coaches for all types of schools and the preparation of some 350 items of teaching material annually, for instance for use by the Competency Teams. The programme encompasses continuing training for additional qualifications in subjects for which there is a shortage of teachers, tailor-made training to raise the competence of heads of schools, plus specific training measures focusing on, for instance, radiation protection, or equal opportunities. Furthermore, Section 46 allocates the funds for continuing training schemes for teachers for all schools in the government district. Altogether, the budget for those measures amounts to € 3.3 million p.a.

In the context of teacher training, Section 46 is responsible for the functional and disciplinary supervision of the Centres for Practical Teacher Training in the Cologne government district, which includes ensuring training standards and promoting quality development in the re-structured 18-months pre-service teacher training programme.



Section 47 – Personnel and staff planning affairs

All matters pertaining to budget, civil service and collective bargaining laws and regulations governing teachers in publicly maintained schools, trainee teachers, school psychologists, social educators, school administrative assistants, and school inspectors of the local education authorities are dealt with by Section 47 in close and trusting co-operation with the staff councils. Exception: Primary school teachers who do not have the status of public servant (Beamte). These teachers come within the jurisdiction of the local education authorities of the counties and unincorporated cities. Every year, some 1,600 new teachers are employed on a permanent basis with a view to ensuring the provision of lessons to all pupils and students. Section 47 has an annual budget totalling € 1.8 billion to implement all those staffing measures. Moreover, the section concludes some 11,000 limited employment contracts with supply teachers designed to help avoid class cancellations due to illness and statutory maternity or parental leave. By contrast, payment of remuneration, pensions, benefits etc. for teachers is the responsibility of the Düsseldorf-based North Rhine-Westphalia Office of Salaries and Pensions. In a nutshell, Section 47 ensures the uniform application of the service regulations and collective agreements governing teachers throughout the Cologne regional government district.

Altogether, the staff of Section 47 are responsible for over 45,000 teachers in permanent employment who provide education to some 608,000 pupils at 1,400 schools in the Cologne regional government district.

Section 48 – Education law and organisation of schools, relations with the churches, independent schools, sports, continuing education, arts and promotion of culture, public libraries

Education law issues include appeals from marks and assessments, administrative orders or sanctions, rejections of admission to a school, and fines for violation of compulsory schooling regulations. Section 48 is also responsible for recognition of international educational qualifications up to school leaving certificates at 16, and recognition of university entrance qualifications restricted to specific fields of study (Fachhochschulreife). Furthermore, the terms of reference of Section 48 include granting licences for the establishment and closure of publicly maintained and independent schools, funding of grant-aided independent schools, awarding grants towards the cost of provision for children and youths in open whole-day schools and similar care facilities.

In the field of school sport and development of sport in general the section focuses on promoting the quality of exercise, playing and sport, continuing training programmes for teachers in school sport, competitive and achievement-seeking sport at schools, and funding of sport facilities and sporting events of outstanding importance.

Section 48 co-funds the construction of municipal museums, contributes to the institutional funding of orchestras and theatres and sponsors inter-cultural and international projects carried out by and involving artists. The section initiates, supports and promotes regional co-operation projects by libraries in the government district and provides advice to municipal public libraries on issues ranging from development planning and design to organisation. In the continuing training and further education sector, Section 48 is responsible for official recognition and sponsoring of non-profit institutions.