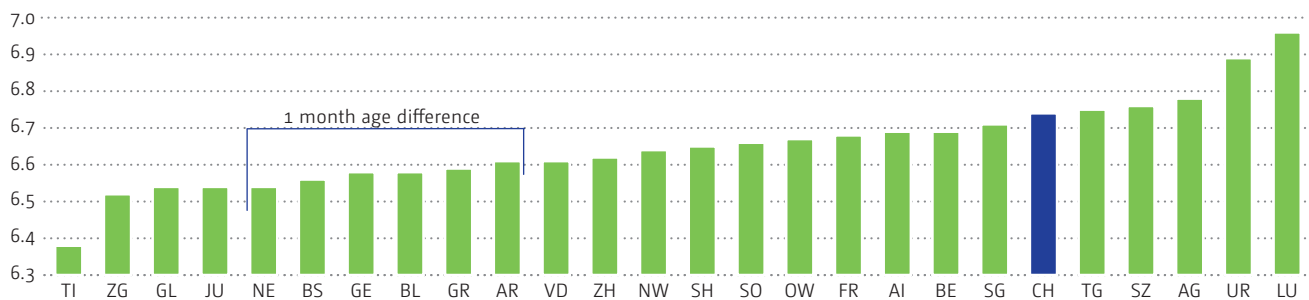


52 Cantonal average age upon entering the third year of primary school level

Corrected to take account of age effects caused by differing cut-off dates. The canton of Valais is excluded due to differing cut-off dates in the different regions.

Data: FSO; calculations: SCCRE

School entry age



Content of the curricula for the different linguistic regions

It is not just the alignment of pre-school/the first learning cycle and primary school that has progressed since 2014. The introduction of the linguistic region curricula has also moved forward in the form of the Lehrplan 21, the Plan d'études romand (PER) and the Piano di studio della scuola dell'obbligo ticinese, and has either been concluded or is currently being implemented. The cantons of Western Switzerland and the canton of Ticino have already adopted and implemented «regional and/or cantonal» curricula. This has only been achieved in some of the cantons in German-speaking Switzerland (→ *chapter Compulsory education, page 31*). The PER and Lehrplan 21 are divided into three cycles (first cycle: four years; second cycle: four years; third cycle: three years). The Piano di studio della scuola dell'obbligo ticinese is also split into three cycles, lasting four, three and four years. The three cycles of the linguistic region curricula have specific priorities. The first cycle focuses on consolidating basic social competencies and working methods used in school, as well as on basic language skills. Cycles 2 and 3 (lower-secondary education) build on the competencies already acquired, going into more depth with subject-specific and over-arching competencies.

The cantonal curricula are divided into various subject areas, some of which are described in more detail here by way of example. In terms of language tuition, most cantons teach two foreign languages in addition to the language of instruction as early as primary school level (a second national language of Switzerland and English).³ Courses in German as a second language, German as a foreign language and French as a second language are all available in a large number of cantons. Additionally, in order to promote pupils' native languages, teaching in native language and culture is offered in around one third of cantons (e.g. Basel-Stadt and Geneva). Several studies have shown the positive impact that this language teaching has on the development of the children's first language. In contrast it has not been possible to prove the expected transfer effect to the standard language (*Caprez-Krompàk, 2015; 2011*). In the subject «Natur, Mensch, Gesellschaft» (Lehrplan 21), «Sciences hu-

³ The canton of Neuchâtel has introduced an immersion teaching pilot project at primary school level (PRIMA I and PRIMA II). Other cantons also offer immersion classes (e.g. French and German classes in Bern and English classes in Zug).