## Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs of Lower Saxony



# The system for the transition betweenschool and vocational training

Support for accessing vocational training in Lower Saxony

Second revised edition (last revised: February 2024)





Foreword Introduction

### **Foreword**

The transition into the world of work – be it from general education, or following full-time programmes at vocational colleges – poses major challenges for everyone involved. For the young people themselves, their legal guardians, the teachers who advise them, and other experts from key agencies such as the employment agencies and professional associations: it is important to establish these individuals' career orientation early on and then find a suitable training workplace that matches their wishes, abilities and ideas. Here, dual vocational training opens up many other opportunities for personal development and for upgrading career skills. Scope for upward mobility through our education system has never been better.

Many young people know exactly what they want and find their own way – without needing to avail themselves of supporting or ancillary services.

At the same time, there can also be many small and larger obstacles along the way. And so a wide range of support services are available from various agencies, enabling assistance to be provided on a highly personalised basis and tailored to individual needs. However, it is precisely this diversity that often makes it difficult to see the big picture.

This brochure, which has been revised and is now in its third edition, has been produced to help young people find the right offerings for them. An English-language edition will also be available. I would like to thank all partners of the Alliance for Dual Vocational Training for their contributions. However, I am especially grateful for the commitment of those who support young people in various ways, with trust and confidence, on their path to a career.



Marco Hartrich

Permanent Secretary in the Lower Saxony Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs

### Introduction

The "Alliance for Dual Vocational Training (BDB)" brings together the organisations and associations involved in vocational training at the regional level, such as the social partners (employers' associations and trade unions), the professional associations, the central municipal associations, the Lower Saxony/Bremen Regional Directorate of the German Federal Employment Agency (BA) and the relevant ministries of the regional government. The aim is to strengthen dual vocational training provision in Lower Saxony. The BDB was founded in 2014 and is part of the Lower Saxony Skilled Workers' Initiative.

Not all young people make the direct transition to vocational training directly after completing general schooling. There may be a gap in their progression for a variety of reasons. The players on the vocational training market, the schools and the Federal Employment Agency offer a differentiated range of services to best meet the needs of young people. The Youth Employment Agencies (JBA) are also helpful, where the employment agency (AA), the job centre (JC) and youth welfare services cooperate with the goal of enabling access to an apprenticeship. The aim of this handout is to provide an easy-to-understand overview of the instruments that exist and are on offer by the various providers. The outline relates to the needs of young people:

## 1. Young people whose previous orientation and support processes do not yet suggest that it makes sense for them to take up vocational training

- Group 1: not ready for vocational training, special ed. support needs and/or problems in multiple areas
- Group 2: not ready for vocational training and lack of career orientation
- Group 3: not ready for vocational training but career-orientated
- Group 4: limited readiness for vocational training but career-orientated
- Group 5: has insufficient German language skills, including refugees
- Group 6: ready for vocational training but not sufficiently career-orientated

## 2. Young people whose orientation process and applications have not yet directly resulted in dual vocational training being commenced or who are at risk of being unsuccessful in their vocational training

- Group 7: ready for vocational training and career-orientated, but with learning difficulties and/or social disadvantages
- Group 8: ready for vocational training and career-orientated, but with limited placement prospects (disadvantaged by the market)

## 3. Young people who need a programme that takes into account issues faced by people with disabilities

• Group 9: young rehabilitants/young disabled people

In addition to the employment agency and the job centre, the professional associations that are responsible for vocational training often offer support for the placement of young people in vocational training.

Instruments of entry support Instruments of entry support

## I. Instruments of entry support

1. For young people whose previous orientation and support processes do not yet suggest that it makes sense for them to take up vocational training

Target groups	Programmes	Programme 1 Youth welfare programmes by the youth workshop	Programme 2 Support for hard- to-reach young people pursuant to section 16h German Social Code Book 2 (SGB II)	Programme 3 Measures under section 45 SGB II (if necessary in conjunction with section 16 (2) SGB II) e.g. in youth workshops (supplemented by 9 hours of youth welfare services) or as activation aids.	Programme 4 Career-orientation measures -BOM-	Programme 4a Career start support -BerEB-	Programme 5 Pre-vocational training measures (BvB)	Programme 5a BvB-Pro	Programme 6  Career entry school language and integration, full-time	Programme 6a Career entry school language and integration, part-time with en- try qualifications (EQ)	Programme 7  Career entry school year 1, full-time	Programme 8  Career entry school year 2, full-time	Programme 8a Career entry school Year 2, part-time with EQ	Programme 9 Career orientation internships pursuant to section 48a SGB III from 1 April 2024	Programme 10 EQ
	Responsible	MS	JC	BA/JC/MS	BA	BA	ВА	BA	MK	MK	MK	MK	MK	BA/JC	MW
Target group I Young people who a vocational training, re special educational n problems in multiple	equire support for needs and/or have	x			x	x					x				
After completing cor education	mpulsory full-time	x	x	x			x	x							
Target group II  Young people who a for vocational training orientated					х	x					x <sup>1</sup>				
After completing coreducation	mpulsory full-time						x								
Target group III Young people who a cational training but						х						х			
After completing coreducation	mpulsory full-time						x					x	x	x	x
Target group IV Young people who a but are not fully read training	re career-orientated											х			
After completing coreducation	mpulsory full-time						х					х	х		х
Target group V Young people withou language skills, include	ding refugees				х	х			х						
After completing coreducation	mpulsory full-time								x	x					х
Target group VI Young people ready training but not suffice	for vocational				х	х									
After completing coreducation	mpulsory full-time	T	[	[			_ x								
<b>V</b>	<b>—</b>		Potentia	lly consulting and	placement servi	ces offered by the	e competent ager	ncies				<b>V</b>			<b>V</b>
Possible follov	w-on options	Vocational training, potential follow-on mea- sure by AA/ job centre/ school-lea- ving qualification	Therapies, transfer to a competent institution, potential follow- on measure by JC/AA	Vocational training, potential follow-on mea- sure by AAV job centre	Vocational training	Vocational training	Vocational training	Vocational training or employment	Vocational training poten- tially continuing education course 6a	Vocational training, poten- tially integration into the labour market	Year 2, potentially vocational training or integration into the labour market	tially continuing	Vocational training, poten- tially potentially education course	Vocational training	Vocational training (poten- tially with recog- nition of existing qualifications)

<sup>1</sup> The specialised nature of the educational programmes of the career entry school system in Lower Saxony means that a basic career orientation is required. If a young person is lacking this despite previous attempts at systematic career orientation during general schooling, the young person will decide on a vocational specialisation together with their legal guardians during an admission consultation session at the BBS.

Thanks to the permeability of the new entry system, it is possible to enter dual vocational training at any time and to change vocational specialisations within the first six weeks.

Instruments of entry support

Description of the programmes

## 2. For young people whose orientation process and applications have not yet directly resulted in placement in dual vocational training or who are at risk of being unsuccessful in their vocational training

Target groups	Programmes	Programme 5 BvB	Programme 9  Career orientation internships pursuant to section 48a SGB III	Programme 10 EQ	Programme 10a Mobility grant pursuant to section 73a SGB III from 1 April 2024	Programme 11 Vocational school (graded, partly jointly run in conjunction with the basic stage of the vocational college)	Programme 12 External training (BaE) (in integrative and cooperative form)	Programme 13 Assisted vocational training (AsA), BvB
	Responsible	BA	BA/JC	BA/JC	BA/JC	MK	BA/JC	BA/JC
Target group VI Young people wh vocational training orientated, have I and/or are socially	o are ready for g and are career- earning difficulties					х		Preliminary phase: apprenticeship seekers accom- panying phase: apprentices
After completing of full-time education		х	х	х	х		х	х
Target group VIII Young people with limited placement prospects (disadvantaged by the market) who are ready for vocational training and are career-orientated.						х		Accompanying phase: apprentices only
After completing of full-time education					×			x
<b>V</b>	<b>+</b>	Potenti	ally consultation	and placement	services offered	by the competer	nt agencies	<b>▼</b>
Possible follo	ow-on options	Vocational training	Vocational training	Vocational training		Vocational trai- ning (potentially with recognition of existing quali- fications)	Switch to internal training after vocational qualifi- cation: to gainful employment	Vocational trai- ning or success- ful completion of vocational training

#### 3. For young people who need a programme suitable for disabled people

o. For yo	oung peo	pie wno	need a	program	ime suit	able for	disable	u peopie	<del>-</del>		
Target groups	Programmes	Programme 14 Aptitude assessment/ work experience	Programme 15 BvB-rehab	Programme 16 Vocational training	Programme 16a Grants to cover vocational trai- ning allowan- ces for people with disabilities (vocational training grant, AZ) pursuant to section 73 SGB III	Programme 16b In-company vocational training with support (bbA) Section 117(1) SGB Ill in con- junction with section 49(3) no. 4 SGB IX	Programme 17 Participation assistance (THB)	Programme 18 Supported employment	Programme 19 Training budget	Programme 20 Entry pro- cedure and vocational training in a workshop or with another service pro- vider	Programme 21 Career entry school Language/ integration Part-time with EQ
	Responsible										
Target group IX Young rehabilitants/young disabled people		х		х			х		х	х	
After completing compulsory full-time education		х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		х	х
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Possible follow-on options		Case-by- case decision- making	Training, potentially gainful em- ployment	Integration into gainful employment	Integration into gainful employment	Integration into gainful employment	Vocational training or integration into gainful employment	Integration into gainful employment	Integration into gainful employment	Transfer to the work area of the workshop for disabled people (WfbM) or to a budget for work; Integration into the primary labour market	Vocational training in accordance with section 66 German Vocational Training Act (BBiG) or section 42r German Skilled Crafts Code (HwO), integration into the labour market or transfer to the WfbM transfer to the WfbM transfer to the WfbM

## II. Description of the programmes

Programme 1	Jugendwerkstatt
Target groups/ individual problem areas	<ul> <li>a) Young people who have completed their compulsory education but are unable to enter vocational training due to barriers to integration and require support for special educational needs.</li> <li>b) Students who are reintegrated socially, educationally and vocationally in an out-of-school learning location due to a lack of motivation to learn and a requirement for support for special educational needs can be admitted to a youth workshop to a limited extent.</li> </ul>
Objective	<ul> <li>Supporting the personality development of young people, stabilizing the individual, social integration;</li> <li>promotion of competencies and skills that are the prerequisite for successful educational processes, lifestyle and professional integration in addition to b:</li> <li>apersonal stabilisation, educational and professional integration as well as completion of compulsory schooling</li> </ul>
Duration	6 – 24 months
Learning locations	Youth workshops with production-related working conditions at voluntary and public youth welfare providers
Concept	Work on specific, production-related assignments is carried out in workrooms. In addition, training content and key qualifications are taught that are required for vocational training or employment. Further, support for special educational needs is provided with the aim of helping overcome individual problem areas (e.g. finding accommodation, debt, delinquency, addiction problems). Youth workshops pursue an individual, holistic approach to support that considers a person's entire life situation.
Effectiveness of the programme	Funding since 1 July 2022. Ongoing evaluation of effectiveness.
Competent institution	Lower Saxony Ministry for Social Affairs, Health and Equality (MS)
Follow-on options	<ul> <li>Follow-on measure by AA/job centre;</li> <li>school-leaving certificate</li> <li>Vocational training</li> </ul>

Programme 2	Support for hard-to-reach young people pursuant to section 16h SGB II
Target groups/ individual problem areas	Young people who have lost/may lose contact with all care systems, with likelihood of receipt of benefits under SGB II
Objective	Stabilisation and re-establishment of contact with supporting agencies, potentially SGB II-referral, potentially admission to therapy,
Duration	Demand-driven
Learning locations	Outreach and supporting work, cafés and buses as drop-in centres offering food and washing facilities.
Concept	Not specified, but similar in Lower Saxony (café, bus, special needs, psychologist)
Effectiveness of the programme	No statement possible yet on "no one must fall through the cracks".
Competent institution	JC (in coordination with municipal youth welfare services)
Follow-on options	Therapies, SGB II-referral, follow-on measures, ending homelessness through housing programmes

Programme 3	Measures under section 45 SGB III (if necessary in conjunction with section 16 (2) SGB II)
Target groups/ individual problem areas	<ul> <li>Young people who are not ready for vocational training, require support for special educational needs and may also have problems in multiple areas</li> <li>after completing compulsory full-time education</li> </ul>
Objective	Apprenticeship seekers () can be supported by measures for activation and professional integration that, among other things,  introduce people to the vocational training and labour market, or  identify, reduce or eliminate barriers to placement.  Participation in a measure is intended to motivate and stabilise young people  for vocational qualification,  as well as to enable a flexible transition to more advanced qualification programmes (especially BvB, EQ).  Entry into vocational training or work
Duration	Varies, whereby  a maximum of 6 weeks if carried out by an employer,  a maximum of 6 weeks for "activation" measures, and  a maximum of 8 weeks for "vocational skills" measures.
Learning locations	<ul> <li>Training provider/location of measure,</li> <li>as concept dovetailed with 9 hours of youth welfare in youth workshops</li> </ul>
Concept	Young people who are not yet eligible for successful qualification, even within the framework of vocational preparation measures, due to manifold and serious obstacles (problems in multiple areas), especially in the areas of motivation/attitudes, key qualifications and social skills, are supported by suitable measures.  In particular, the programme prepares students for  • vocational training,  • strengthens their working and social behaviour,  • promotes their willingness to learn and ability to perform,  • and changes their existing outlook.  Overall, this is a low-threshold programme on the path to vocational training, qualification and employment.
Effectiveness of the programme	E.g. 50% of the participants in the youth workshop measures go on to vocational training, work or further measures
Competent institution	AA/JC (in youth workshops dovetailed with youth welfare services of the MS)
Follow-on options	<ul> <li>Follow-on measure of AAVJC (especially BvB, EQ)</li> <li>Vocational training</li> <li>Starting work</li> </ul>

Programme 4	Career orientation measures (BOM) pursuant to section 48 SGB III
Target groups/ individual problem areas	Students of general schools, primarily sec. I, but also sec. II, as well as students with special educational needs or disabled students.
Objective	Young people are given an in-depth insight into the world of work and professions and are thus better prepared for choosing a career.
Duration	Usually 1 - 5 days (longer durations are possible in individual cases)
Learning locations	Generally, schools/colleges and workshops, as well as workshops/premises of training providers or third parties
Concept	Practical and theoretical modules are used to impart vocational and business knowledge and experience, so that self-assessment is improved with support for special educational needs and strategies for career choice and decision-making are developed.
Competent institution	BA and co-funders (min. 50 %)
Follow-on options	Vocational training

Angebot 4a	Career start support (BerEb) pursuant to section 49 SGB III
Target groups/ individual problem areas	Pupils who are likely to have difficulties in achieving the special, lower secondary or equivalent school-leaving certificate and in making the transition from general education to vocational training
	Provide tailored support to students, thereby facilitating career integration. Support begins in the final year of school and continues after leaving general schooling during the search for an apprenticeship and in the initial phase of vocational training. The career entry advisers work with the participants to determine what this support will look like in detail, taking account of personal strengths, interests, and abilities. Career advisers are involved in providing support throughout the full participation period. One of the most important tasks of career start support is to help with
	Attainment of the general school-leaving certificate
Objective	Career orientation and career choice
	Search for an apprenticeship
	Support in the transitional system
	Stabilisation of the vocational training relationship
	In addition, it can also provide support in readying young people for vocational training. As a rule, support for participants continues after they leave general education, provided they continue to pursue vocational training. This may also apply to participation in measures (e.g. BvB, EQ, AsA).
Duration	As a rule, career start support begins during the final year of general schooling and usually ends six months after the start of vocational training. Career start support ends no later than 24 months after completion of general schooling.
Learning locations	<ul><li>School</li><li>Training provider</li></ul>
Participating schools	Only general education schools leading to a special, lower secondary or equivalent school leaving certificate are involved. This does not include schools that only provide higher school-leaving qualifications.
Competent institution	For external vocational training, however, a minimum of 50% third-party co-financing is mandatory to establish corresponding measures.
Follow-on options	<ul> <li>Priority: transition to in-company vocational training, accompanied by AsA if applicable</li> <li>Lower priority: alternatives for further preparation for internal training, e.g. BvB, AsA, EQ.</li> <li>Alternatively: other vocational training, e.g. school-based vocational training or vocational training in external establishments (BaE)</li> </ul>

Programme 5	Pre-vocational training measures (BvB) pursuant to section 51 SGB III
Target groups/	Young people who, after completing compulsory full-time education, are neither ready for training nor sufficiently orientated, or
individual problem areas	<ul> <li>who are career-orientated but are not or not yet fully ready for vocational training, or</li> <li>who are ready for vocational training but not sufficiently orientated</li> </ul>
	Participants can review and evaluate their abilities, skills and interests with regard to their choice of occupation and orient themselves within the spectrum of suitable occupations in order to then choose a career.
Objective	<ul> <li>To provide participants with the necessary skills and abilities to take up initial vocational training or – if this is not (yet) possible – to take up employment, and</li> <li>To integrate participants into the vocational training and/or labour market on as long-term a basis as possible.</li> </ul>
	If applicable, acquisition of the certificate of lower secondary education     (Hauptschulabschluss) or an equivalent school leaving certificate
	The maximum total funding period is 18 months; but usually
Duration	up to 10 months (up to 12 months for people with disabilities).
Duration	up to 9 months for transitional qualification.
	up to 12 months to prepare for the certificate of lower secondary education.
Learning locations	Training provider/location of measure
Concept	After an aptitude analysis, young people in need of support (those who have not found an apprenticeship position, those who are disadvantaged, those who have not completed school and young people with a disability or with a migration background) have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the selected occupation via an internship in a firm, and in doing so to check whether it is suitable. In return, the firm can get to know the young person and his or her skills. This increases the chances of them being taken on as an apprentice afterwards. However, if this is not immediately successful, the basic knowledge acquired will be useful when reapplying to another firm. It is also possible for people who are raising children or caring for family members (at least 20 hours per week) to take part-time courses.
Competent institution	• BA
Follow-on options	Vocational training

Programme 5a	Pre-vocational training measures with a product-orientated approach (BvB-Pro) pursuant to section 51 SGB III
Target groups/ individual problem areas	Young people who are not yet ready for vocational training or suitable for a profession and who face multiple and serious obstacles, especially in the area of key skills, or who have pronounced educational fatigue
Objective	Preparation for integration into vocational training or employment
Duration	Max. 12 months (termination possible at any time due to integration into vocational training or employment or also return to school)
Learning locations	Training providers: production schools, youth workshops
Concept	This production-orientated approach is designed to promote holistic personality development and a positive attitude toward social participation, as well as to develop personal skills and abilities through practical approaches to action in preparation for an informed career choice.
Competent institution	BA together with co-funder (50 %)
Follow-on options	Vocational training or employment

Angebot 6/6a	Career entry school  a) Language and integration, full-time b) Language and integration, part-time
Target groups/ individual problem areas	Newly arrived young people with language support needs who  a) are between 16 and 18 years old. b) epossess an entry qualification contract.
Objective	<ul> <li>Learning German,</li> <li>Regional studies,</li> <li>Career orientation plus preparation for vocational training or employment in Germany</li> </ul>
Duration	1 year
Learning locations	<ul><li>Vocational training school</li><li>(Internship) firm</li></ul>
Concept	Language support in the professional and cross-disciplinary field:  a) Full-time tuition in the 3 teaching modules  • Language learning • Introduction to the region's cultural and living environment, • introduction to the professional and working world; • if possible, internship in firm. • Eigenverantwortung der Schule bei der Personalauswahl und der Entwicklung von individuellen Förderplänen  Educational institution has autonomy over the selection of personnel and the development of individual support plansb) Part-time tuition in the 3 teaching modules  • Communication in the living and working environment • Promotion of basic knowledge, • practical introduction to professional and working life  It is possible to switch to a regular programme or dual vocational training at any time.
Effectiveness of the programme	The proven concept of the SPRINT and SPRINT dual project has been consolidated at the career entry school
Competent institution	MK
Follow-on options	<ul><li>Training</li><li>potentially, further training</li></ul>

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Programme 7	Career entry school, year 1, full-time
Target groups/ individual problem areas	Young people of compulsory school age who do not have a certificate of lower secondary education  who have individual support needs and  who generally are not sufficiently ready for vocational training.
Objective	<ul> <li>Individual support,</li> <li>Targeted vocational training preparation,</li> <li>"Sticky effect" (follow-on orientation),</li> <li>Attendance of year 2, certificate of lower secondary education</li> </ul>
Duration	1 year
Learning locations	<ul><li>Vocational training school,</li><li>Internship in firm</li></ul>
Concept	<ul> <li>Dovetailing of theoretical and practical phases in vocational learning situations,</li> <li>2 to 3 days of tuition with qualification modules from at least one subject area implemented as curriculum,</li> <li>Permeability into dual vocational training possible at any time,</li> <li>Transfer to another subject area possible within 6 weeks,</li> <li>Conceptually orientated, tailored support by (social) pedagogical specialist staff</li> </ul>
Effectiveness of the programme	Continuation of the successful model of the year of pre-vocational training
Competent institution	MK
Follow-on options	<ul> <li>Attendance of year 2</li> <li>Vocational training</li> <li>Integration into the labour market</li> </ul>

Programme 8/8a	Career entry school year 2  a) Full-time b) Part-time
Target groups/ individual problem areas	Young people who  do not yet have sufficient maturity for vocational training,  Do not usually have a certificate of lower secondary education,  Are generally career-orientated,  Who (b) have an EQ contract
Objective	<ul> <li>Acquisition of certificate of lower secondary education,</li> <li>Targeted vocational training preparation</li> <li>"Sticky effect" (follow-on orientation)</li> </ul>
Duration	1 year
Learning locations	Vocational training school     a) Internship    b) Firm
Concept	<ul> <li>Dovetailing of theoretical and practical phases in vocational learning situations,</li> <li>2 to 3 days of tuition with qualification modules from at least one subject area implemented as curriculum,</li> <li>Permeability into dual vocational training possible at any time,</li> <li>Transfer to another subject area possible within 6 weeks,</li> <li>Conceptually orientated, tailored support by (social) pedagogical specialist staff</li> </ul>
Effectiveness of the programme	The proven concept of the career entry school is supplemented by the positive experience with entry qualification in the BEST school experiment
Competent institution	• MK • BA
Follow-on options	<ul><li>Vocational training,</li><li>Integration into the labour market</li></ul>

Programme 9	Career orientation internships pursuant to section 48a SGB III
Target groups/ individual problem areas	Those seeking vocational training who are not attending college and have completed compulsory full-time education
Objective	<ul> <li>Career orientation</li> <li>Achieving clarity with regard to one's choice of career</li> </ul>
Duration	• 1 – 6 weeks
Learning locations	Implementation in the workplace of one or several employers
Concept	Assumption of travel costs and, if applicable, accommodation costs
Effectiveness of the programme	Successful transition from school to vocational training once the person is sure of their career choice
Competent institution	• BA/JC
Follow-on options	Successful application for, and start of, vocational training

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Angebot 10	Entry qualification (EQ) pursuant to section 54a SGB III
Target groups/ individual problem areas	Eligibility for support extends to applicants for apprenticeships registered with the Employment Agency or JC after fulfilling their compulsory full-time education  who are not yet fully ready for training,  are career-orientated, but have learning difficulties and/or are socially disadvantaged  and have not found an apprenticeship by September 30 of a given year.
Objective	<ul> <li>Preparation for/initiation into internal training</li> <li>Provision and consolidation of basic knowledge for the acquisition of vocational skills</li> <li>Acquisition of a certificate from a professional association on successful participation;</li> <li>Potentially provision of vocational training modules for recognised vocational training occupations (if these have already been developed by the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BiBB))</li> </ul>
Duration	<ul> <li>At least 6 months, but up to a maximum of 12 months,</li> <li>Also possible part-time if raising own children or caring for family members (at least 20 hours per week).</li> <li>Limited until the end of the month before the start of vocational training (1 August/1 September in a given year)</li> </ul>
Learning locations	<ul><li>Vocational college,</li><li>Firm</li></ul>
Concept	Young people have the opportunity to get to know the chosen profession closely via an internship in a firm and see whether it is suitable. In return, the firm can get to know the young person and his or her skills. This increases the chances of them being taken on as an apprentice afterwards.
Effectiveness of the programme	Relatively good chances of finding an apprenticeship with the internship firm
Competent institution	BA / JC
Follow-on options	Vocational training

Programme 10a	Mobility grant pursuant to section 73a SGB III from 1 April 2024
Target groups/ individual problem areas	Apprentices whose training establishment cannot be reached from their current place of residence within a reasonable time period
Objective	Incentive to start vocational training in a different region
Duration	Funding support only during the first year of vocational training
Learning locations	
Concept	Assumption of costs equivalent to 2 journeys home per month (this does not count towards any vocational training support grant paid)
Effectiveness of the programme	Increased mobility for young people
Competent institution	BA/JC
Follow-on options	Successful completion of vocational training

Programme 8, 11	Vocational school (BFS)
Target groups/ individual problem areas	<ul> <li>Young people of compulsory school age with at least a certificate of lower secondary education</li> <li>who are generally ready for vocational training</li> <li>but are not sufficiently orientated or have limited placement prospects despite sufficient career orientation (disadvantaged by the market, socially disadvantaged, learning difficulties).</li> </ul>
Objective	<ul> <li>Basic vocational training with the aim of obtaining recognition of the first year of vocational training;</li> <li>Higher school leaving certificate (sec. I secondary school diploma (Realschulabschluss), if applicable an extended sec. I secondary school diploma)</li> </ul>
Duration	<ul> <li>1 year (1-year BFS),</li> <li>Potentially 2nd year (year 2 of the 2-year BFS for entrants with a certificate of lower secondary education and a grade point average of at least 3.0 (equivalent to C) at the end of the 1-year BFS)</li> </ul>
Learning locations	<ul><li>Vocational training school,</li><li>Internship firm</li></ul>
Concept	<ul> <li>1-year BFS:</li> <li>5 days of tuition at the vocational training school, optionally also in joint instruction with the basic level of the vocational college;</li> <li>Supervised practical vocational training in a firm (at least 160 hours)</li> <li>Year 2 of the 2-year BFS:</li> <li>4 days of tuition at the vocational training school</li> <li>1 day of supervised practical vocational training in the firm</li> <li>Theory and practical vocational training in the context of student companies or model companies (in coordination with the school authorities and the regional business community)</li> <li>Permeability to dual vocational training possible at any time</li> </ul>
Effectiveness of the programme	Reliable figures are not yet available.
Competent institution	MK
Follow-on options	<ul> <li>Training (potentially with recognition of existing qualifications),</li> <li>potentially further training course</li> </ul>

Programme 12	Vocational training in external establishments (BaE) pursuant to section 76 SGB III
Target groups/ individual problem areas	<ul> <li>Young people who have completed compulsory full-time education,</li> <li>who are ready for vocational training and are career-orientated, but have learning disabilities and/or are socially disadvantaged.</li> <li>From 1 August 2024, young people who are disadvantaged by the market can, if the situation on the vocational training market in their region is poor, complete BaE if their efforts to apply and get a placement have been unsuccessful.</li> </ul>
Objective	The aim of BaE is that apprentices are enabled to  start,  continue, and successfully complete vocational training. The earliest possible transition into an in-company vocational training relationship is sought.
Duration	In principle, participants may be assigned on an annual basis, but they are generally assigned for the entire duration of their vocational training.
Learning locations	<ul> <li>Cooperating firm</li> <li>Training provider / location of measures</li> <li>Vocational college</li> </ul>
Concept	For young people who have not succeeded in obtaining vocational training in a firm, or in continuing their vocational training in a firm until they complete it, vocational training in an external establishment is an appropriate alternative  BaE is mainly implemented in two models (cooperative or integrative):  In the case of cooperative BaE, practical instruction during the in-company phases is
	<ul> <li>carried out by a cooperating firm.</li> <li>In the case of integrative BaE, the training provider is responsible for both theoretical and practical instruction. The latter is supplemented by in-company training phases.</li> </ul>
Effectiveness of the programme	A large proportion of the participants obtain a vocational qualification on the basis of an examination held by the relevant professional association.
Competent institution	• BA/JC
Follow-on options	<ul> <li>Switch to in-company vocational training</li> <li>After vocational qualification, transition to employment</li> </ul>

Programme 13	Assisted vocational training (AsA) pursuant to section 74–75a SGB III
Target groups/ individual problem areas	Young people (including people with disabilities) who are generally not in initial vocational training and are ready for vocational training, are career orientated and are not subject to compulsory full-time schooling, who are generally under 25 years of age at the time of entry and cannot start, continue or successfully complete vocational training in a firm without support due to personal reasons.  Firms are eligible for funding if they wish to take on a participating young person for internal training (preliminary phase), have taken on a participating young person for internal training (accompanying phase).
Objective	Young people who are at risk of not finding an apprenticeship or unsuccessfully dropping out of their apprenticeship can be offered assistance with the assisted vocational training programme to help them successfully complete their apprenticeship and transition to work through individual support.
Duration	Preliminary phase: 6 months full-time (extension of 2 months possible)  Accompanying phase: for the entire duration of the vocational training with max. 9 hours of tuition/week
Learning locations	<ul><li>Training organisation,</li><li>Training provider</li></ul>
Concept	Contents: the aim in the (optional) vocational training preparation phase is to prepare for the start of internal training and to support the search for internal training. It must not be subject to regional education laws.  In the (obligatory) phase that accompanies the vocational training, any remaining language and educational deficits must be rectified, specialist theoretical skills, knowledge and abilities promoted and the vocational training relationship stabilised. This support must go beyond the teaching of standard operational and vocational training content. In addition, there is the aspect of stabilising the vocational training relationship. Entry into this phase of the AsA requires a vocational training contract to have been entered into.  In addition, firms that provide internal training to a young person in need of support can receive administrative and organisational assistance in the implementation of vocational training and support to stabilise the vocational training relationship. Firms that pursue the goal of providing internal training to a young person in need of support can receive support as early as the start of vocational training.
Competent institution	BA/JC
Follow-on options	<ul> <li>Following phase of preparation for vocational training, transition to in-company vocational training</li> <li>Following phase that accompanies the vocational training, transition to employment</li> </ul>

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Programme 14	Aptitude assessment/work experience Section 112 (2) SGB III in conjunction with section 49 (4) SGB IX; section 51 SGB IX
Target groups/ individual problem areas	(Disabled) rehabilitants pursuant to section 19 SGB III
Objective	Determination of the necessary support requirements in the rehabilitation process
Duration	Aptitude assessment up to 60 days, work experience up to 20 days
Learning locations	Vocational training centre (BBW) or comparable facility pursuant to section 51 SGB IX
Concept	<ul> <li>Diagnostic services are carried out to determine occupational aptitude, intellectual and physical capacity, personal, social and occupation-specific skills along with individual rehabilitation needs.</li> <li>During the course of the aptitude assessment/work experience, an individual occupational goal perspective is developed, taking into account the specific disability, and a recommendation is made for its implementation.</li> </ul>
Competent institution	ВА
Follow-on options	<ul><li>Vocational training (preparation);</li><li>Gainful employment</li></ul>

Programme 15	BvB rehab (see also under programme 5) Section 117 (1) SGB III in conjunction with section (49) (3) no. 2 SGB IX
Target groups/ individual problem areas	(Disabled) rehabilitants pursuant to section 19 SGB III
Objective	Preparation for and integration into (preferably internal) vocational training or employment (if it is not possible to take up vocational training for personal reasons).
Duration	Basic: 12 months; extension to 18 months possible (case-by-case decision)
Learning locations	Provider or vocational training centre (BBW) or other comparable facility pursuant to section 51 SGB IX: BvB rehab services are either purchased in application of public procurement law (BvB2) or carried out as price-negotiated measures in vocational rehabilitation facilities pursuant to section 51 SGB IX (BvB3).
Concept	Each participant is given the opportunity to first orientate him/herself in the multitude of possible professions and to then make a very personal career choice as part of an individual aptitude analysis. The young people are supported in cooperation with training providers that offer various occupational fields for practical qualification.
Competent institution	ва
Follow-on options	<ul><li>Vocational training</li><li>Gainful employment</li></ul>

Programme 16	Vocational training rehab (see also offer 11) Section 117 (1) SGB III in conjunction with section 49 (3) no. 4 SGB IX
Target groups/ individual problem areas	(Disabled) rehabilitants pursuant to section 19 SGB III
Objective	Successful completion of apprenticeship and subsequent integration in work
Duration	Depending on the nature of vocational training, two to three years
Learning locations	Provider or BBW or other comparable institution pursuant to section 51 SGB IX: external training for rehabilitants is either purchased in application of public procurement law or carried out as price-negotiated measures in vocational rehabilitation institutions pursuant to section 51 SGB IX.
Concept	External training (cooperative/integrative rehab training) Integrative model: vocational training at the provider with internal training phases. The transition to cooperative training should be pursued as a goal.  Cooperative model: theoretical vocational training at the provider and practical vocational training at the cooperating firm.  Every opportunity must be taken to promote the apprentice's transition to an internal training position.
Competent institution	ВА
Follow-on options	Integration into gainful employment

Programme 16a	Grants to cover vocational training allowances for people with disabilities (vocational training grant, AZ)  pursuant to section 73 SGB III
Target groups/ individual problem areas	Employers can receive funding for the intake of disabled or severely disabled young people into initial or continuing company-based vocational training
Objective	Inclusion incentives for employers and placement services for people with disabilities and severe disabilities to help find them company-based vocational training.
Duration	This grant is usually paid to cover the entire training period
Learning locations	
Concept	<ul> <li>With a training grant (grant for paying training allowance plus a lump sum covering social insurance contributions) employers can, subject to certain conditions, receive support for initial or continuing company-based vocational training for disabled or severely disabled people. These prerequisites are:</li> <li>Generally, before training begins, an application for a training grant needs to be made.</li> <li>A training contract has been entered into by the two parties.</li> <li>The apprentice is disabled (i.e. is on a vocational rehabilitation scheme run by the employment agency (AfA)) or significantly disabled (i.e. with a level of disablement of at least 50 per cent).</li> <li>The initial or continuing company-based training is not achievable for this person without funding support.</li> <li>This support can be combined with other funding aimed at assisting people with disabilities in vocational training, such as suitably equipping the training workstation, participation assistance (THB) and assisted vocational training (AsA).</li> </ul>
Effectiveness of the programme	Company-based vocational qualification
Competent institution	Employment agency / job centre for people with severe disabilities and for those undergoing vocational rehabilitation
Follow-on options	Lasting integration into the world of employment, achieved via a real-world training pathway

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Programme 16b	In-company vocational training with support (bbA) Section 117(1) SGB III in conjunction with section 49(3) no. 4 SGB IX
Target groups/ individual problem areas	(Disabled) people undergoing rehabilitation pursuant to section 19 SGB III
Objective	Successful completion of vocational training and subsequent integration into the world of work
Duration	(Depending on the nature of vocational training) Two to three years
Learning locations	Workplace
Concept	During in-company vocational training, apprentices can receive needs-orientated support from a contracted service provider. This support covers, for example, assistive and remedial tuition – or guidance based on special needs – that is specific to the rehabilitation situation. Support is closely coordinated between service provider and apprentice
Competent institution	ВА
Follow-on options	Integration into the world of employment

Programme 17	Participation assistance Section 49 SGB IX
Target groups/ individual problem areas	(Disabled) rehabilitants pursuant to section 19 SGB III
Objective	Participation assistance (THB) is a measure to prepare, initiate and stabilise internal training, internal re-training and employment liable to social insurance deductions in the general labour market.
Duration	The duration of the modules depends on individual support needs. THB may cover a period of up to a maximum of six months in each module.
Learning locations	Provider and firm
	THB consists of three modules:
	Module 1: Career orientation
Concept	Module 2: Preliminary vocational training, retraining or employment
	Module 3: Vocational training, re-training or securing employment
	Procurement is conducted in application of procurement law.
Competent institution	ВА
Follow-on options	<ul><li>Vocational training (preparation);</li><li>Gainful employment</li></ul>

Programme 18	Supported employment (Individual internal qualification – InbeQ section55 SGB IX
Target groups/ individual problem areas	<ul> <li>(Disabled) rehabilitants pursuant to section 19 SGB III; especially</li> <li>people with learning disabilities bordering on mental disabilities,</li> <li>Mentally disabled people bordering on learning disabilities,</li> <li>Disabled people with mental disabilities and/or behavioural problems (not in the acute stage)</li> </ul>
Objective	Employment
Duration	Up to 2 years, extension option by 12 months (depending on individual case)
Learning locations	Provider and firm
Concept	<ul> <li>Supported employment (InbeQ) includes three phases with the following objective:</li> <li>Acquisition of fundamentally suitable qualification places and trial of the firm to place the participant in the firm on the basis of the identified special support needs (entry/orientation phase);</li> <li>supported familiarisation and qualification in the place best-suited to the individual with employment prospects (qualification phase);</li> <li>consolidation in everyday working life to attain permanent employment in the firm stabilisation phase)</li> <li>The aim of InbeQ is to establish an employment relationship that is suitable for disabled people and liable to social insurance deductions, which takes special account of the abili-</li> </ul>
	ties and skills of the disabled person, potentially with subsequent vocational guidance in accordance with section 55 (3) SGB IX (under the aegis of the Integration Office).
Competent institution	ВА
Follow-on options	Integration into gainful employment

Programme 19	Budget for vocational training  Sections 61a SGB IX
Target groups/ individual problem areas	(Disabled) rehabilitants pursuant to section 19 SGB III; mainly mentally disabled people
Objective	Alternative support option to the entry procedure/vocational training area (section 57 SGB IX) or with other service providers, intended to improve the opportunities for people with disabilities and increase the choice options by allowing them to complete vocational (specialist apprentice) training on the general labour market
Duration	Total duration of the vocational training relationship; no longer than until successful completion of vocational training (section 61a (3) SGB IX).
Learning locations	Firm
Concept	By reimbursing the vocational training allowance and assuming the necessary expenses for instruction/supervision and, if applicable, assuming the costs for carrying out the school-based part of the vocational training in a rehabilitation facility, the completion of recognised vocational training or specialised practical vocational training on the general labour market is made possible for people with limited ability.
	The budget for vocational training is modelled on the "budget for work" as a funding alternative to the work sector (section 58 SGB IX).
Competent institution	ВА
Follow-on options	<ul> <li>Integration into gainful employment,</li> <li>Transfer to the work area of a workshop for disabled people (WfbM) or another service provider</li> </ul>

Programme 20	Entry procedure and vocational training in a workshop for disabled people (WfbM) sections 56/57 SGB IX or with another service provider section 60 SGB IX
Target groups/ individual problem areas	(Disabled) rehabilitants pursuant to section 19 SGB III; mainly mentally disabled people
Objective	Transfer to the work area of a WfbM or another service provider and employment in the long term
Duration	Entry procedure usually 3 months;  Vocational training programme usually 24 months
Learning locations	WfbM or another service provider
Concept	<ul> <li>The task of the entry procedure is to determine the following on a case-by-case basis, taking into account available documents and information, in particular preliminary reports:</li> <li>whether the place of learning is the appropriate institution for participation in working life,</li> <li>which vocational services for participation in working life and which supplementary services for integration into working life come into question, and</li> <li>which areas and fields of work in the institution and which employment opportunities come into question.</li> <li>An individual analysis of the performance potential is carried out during the entry procedure by means of individual tests and trials as well as group observations. Performance potential is analysed on the basis of recognised and target group-orientated methods for diagnosing aptitude and includes findings on social competencies and prospects for employment on the general labour market.</li> <li>Within the framework of a holistic educational concept, the task of the vocational training area is to</li> <li>promote the personal development of the participants,</li> <li>develop their professional and practical life skills in a targeted manner and</li> <li>prepare them for suitable activities in the field of work or on the general labour market.</li> <li>Vocational qualification in the BBB takes place on the basis of a qualified and continuously updated educational plan (individual integration plan).</li> </ul>
Competent institution	ва
Follow-on options	<ul> <li>Transfer to the work area of a rehabilitation facility;</li> <li>Integration into gainful employment</li> </ul>

Programme 21	Career entry school: language/integration, part-time
Target groups/ individual problem areas	Young people with the need for special educational support who possess an EQ contract
Objective	Integration into the vocational training or primary labour market
Duration	1 year
Learning locations	<ul><li>Vocational training school,</li><li>firm</li></ul>
Concept	Part-time tuition in the 3 teaching modules  Communication in the living and working environment; Promotion of basic knowledge; Practical introduction to professional and working life
Competent institution	• MK • BA
Follow-on options	Integration  into the primary labour market,  Into training pursuant to section 66 BBiG or 42m HWO,  Into the primary labour market or transfer to the vocational training area of the WfbM.

## **List of Abbreviations**

MS	Ministry for Social Affairs, Health and Equal Opportunities of Lower Saxony
JC	Job Centre
BA	German Federal Employment Agency
МК	Lower Saxony Ministry of Education
MW	Ministry for Economics, Employment, Transport and Digitalisation of Lower Saxony
AA	employment agency
BvB	pre-vocational training measures
AsA	assisted vocational training
BaE	external vocational training
abH	assistance during training
EQ	entry qualifications
ТНВ	participation support
WfbM	workshop for disabled people
вом	career orientation measures
BerEb	career start support
BIBB	Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training
IHAFA	Training in the skilled trades for asylum seekers and refugees
BFS	Vocational school
BBW	vocational training centre
bbA	internal training with support
InbeQ	individual internal qualification
BBB	vocational training area

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## III. Advisory and placement services for young people provided by the relevant agencies

Each agency responsible for vocational training employs vocational training advisors to advise apprentices and training organisations. Under the German Vocational Training Act and the German Skilled Crafts Code, the competent bodies are obliged to monitor the implementation of vocational training and vocational retraining and to provide support by advising tutors and apprentices or retrainees. Vocational training advisors are usually professionals (full-time employees). In addition, part-time (voluntary) and honorary vocational training advisors can be appointed, especially for special vocational training occupations and tasks.

Also, the responsible agencies offer a wide range of services for career orientation, placement in vocational training, qualification of various target groups and quality assurance in vocational training.

#### 1. Medical Association

Competent bodies for the vocational training of medical assistants, dental assistants and pharmaceutical sales assistants (section 71 (6) BBiG)

	Karl-Wiechert-Allee 18-22
Contact	30625 Hanover, Germany
	info@aekn.de

#### 2. AOK – The Health Insurance Fund for Lower Saxony

Competent bodies in the public sector (section 73 BBiG)

Bahnhofstraße 6 31157 Sarstedt, Germany
empfang.bitz@nds.aok.de

#### 3. Association of Pharmacists

Competent bodies for the vocational training of medical assistants, dental assistants and pharmaceutical sales assistants (section 71 (6) BBiG)

	Karl-Wiechert-Allee 18-22
Contact	30625 Hannover, Germany
	info@aekn.de

#### 4. Chambers of Trade

Contact	Regional Representation of the Lower Saxony Chambers of Trades
	Ferdinandstraße 3
	30175 Hannover, Germany
	Telefon: 0511-38087-0
	info@handwerk-LHN.de

#### 5. Chambers of trade and industry

Competent bodies for vocational training in other occupational and economic sectors (section 71 (6) BBiG)

#### 6. Regional Office for Geoinformation and Land Surveying of Lower Saxony (LGLN)

Competent bodies in the public sector (section 73 BBiG)

	Podbielskistraße 331
Contact	30659 Hannover, Germany
	zustaendige-stelle@lgln.niedersachsen.de

#### 7. Lower Saxony Agricultural Association

Competent bodies for vocational training in agricultural businesses including rural domestic economy (section 71 (3) BBiG)

Contact	Horticulture division: Hogen Kamp 51 26160 Bad Zwischenahn-Rostrup, Germany lvg.bad-zwischenahn@lwk-niedersachsen.de Agriculture division: Mars-la-Tour-Straße 1-13 26121 Oldenburg, Germany info@lwk-niedersachsen.de
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#### 8. Celle Bar Association / Bar Association for the Higher Regional Court District of Oldenburg

Competent bodies for the vocational training of legal, patent attorneys' and notaries' clerks (section 71 (4) BBiG)

Contact	Bar Association Celle: Bahnhofstraße 5 29221 Celle, Germany info@rakcelle.de For the Oldenburg Higher Regional Court District: Staugraben 5 26122 Oldenburg, Germany info@rak-oldenburg.de
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#### 9. Association of Tax Consultants

Competent bodies for the vocational training of tax clerks (section 71 (5) BBiG)

	Adenauerallee 20
Contact	30175 Hannover, Germany
	info@stbk-niedersachsen.de

#### 10. Veterinary Association of Lower Saxony

Contact	Fichtestraße 13
	30625 Hannover, Germany mail@tknds.de

#### 11. Dental Association of Lower Saxony

Competent bodies for the vocational training of medical assistants, dental assistants and pharmaceutical sales assistants (section 71 (6) BBiG)

	Contact	Zeißstraße 11a, Germany
Contact	30519 Hannover	

## IV. Advisory and placement services provided for young people by employment agencies

Career advisers based at Germany's employment agencies (AfAs) guide young people on all questions around career choice, careers guidance and participation in working life.

These advisory services are aimed at all young people, especially school pupils, those interested in vocational training and studying, apprentices and students, as well as parents and guardians. Advice is provided right where those who need it can best receive it – in all general-education schools and vocational colleges, at employment agencies, youth career agencies (Jugendberufsagenturen) and, if requested, in a virtual consultation as well.

In addition to the wide range of personalized careers guidance services for those about to enter working life, assistance is available to help young people get the vocational training they are seeking, with a great many support measures provided before and during training as well.

Furthermore, employment agencies provide transparency regarding the vocational training available in the region, and offer individualized placement services. And training workplaces receive guidance on questions around initial vocational training, in-service training and retraining.

#### https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/bildung



or

Telephone helpline: 0800 4 555500 (toll-free)

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