

# MIKA-D

Competence Analysis  
Measuring Instrument – German

Information for parents  
and legal guardians



MIKA-D

English  
(Englisch)

## **Imprint**

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(IQS – Federal Institute for Quality Assurance in the Austrian School System)  
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Does your child need to take a MIKA-D test and would you like to know what it is exactly? This information sheet gives you all the important information about MIKA-D, remedial German classes and courses.

## What is MIKA-D?

MIKA-D refers to *Competence Analysis Measuring Instrument – German*. With MIKA-D, teachers check how well your child speaks German and whether he or she can follow lessons in German. There is a version for **Primary Level** (“MIKA-D Primary Level”) and a version for **Secondary Level** (“MIKA-D Secondary Level”).

In MIKA-D, various linguistic areas, for example vocabulary and language comprehension, are tested in a conversation (see p. 5 for more information).

The test takes no more than **30 minutes**.

MIKA-D is **not an exam** like a written test. The pupils do not receive **any grade**.

## Why does my child have to take the test?

The result of MIKA-D is used to decide whether or not and which **remedial German language classes** your child will receive (see p. 2–3 for more information). Your child will be assigned to either a remedial German class or course, or a regular class. With MIKA-D, your child is tested **every semester** whether or not he or she still needs remedial German classes (see p. 4).

## In the MIKA-D test, there are three possible results:

### 1. Remedial German language class

Your child attends the remedial German language class and becomes a non-regular pupil (“**non-regular status**”). At **Primary Level**, your child learns German for **15 hours per week** in the remedial German class, so that he or she will soon be able to better understand the lessons in the regular class. At **Secondary Level**, it is 20 hours per week.

In the remaining lessons, the child participates in the regular class, for example in “Sports and physical training” or in class excursions. Each school regulates this differently.

### 2. Regular class with remedial German language course

With this result, your child will attend the remedial German language course **6 hours per week** (for at least one semester). This is the same at **Primary** and at **Secondary Level**. Your child will be in the regular class for the rest of the time. With this MIKA-D result, your child will also receive the “**non-regular status**”.

### The “non-regular status”

If your child attends a remedial German language class or course, he or she will receive “non-regular status”. Your child can concentrate fully on learning German here.

The “non-regular status” is valid for a **maximum of 2 years** (4 semesters). This means that your child can be in a German language class or course for up to two years. After that, your child will automatically receive “regular status” – no matter what MIKA-D test result your child obtains.

### 3. Regular class

If your child can follow the lessons, he/she will be assigned to the regular class as a regular pupil (**“regular status”**).

Your child does not have to speak perfect German for this. Even with the “regular status”, your child still gets **help with learning German**.

### The “regular status”

Your child gets the “regular status” if

- the MIKA-D result is “adequate” or
- your child has already attended a total of 2 years in a remedial German class or course.

If you want to know more about remedial German language classes, please contact teachers at your child’s school.



## When is MIKA-D used?

Teachers test with MIKA-D ...

1. when **your child is enrolled at school\***;
2. or, if your child is already in a remedial German class or course, **once every semester**. This means: Over time it will be checked several times whether your child still needs the remedial German language classes or not;
3. or, if you have just arrived in Austria, and your child has just started learning German and is **new at an Austrian school**.

### **\*Information for school enrollers**

When your child is about 6 years old, go to school enrolment with your child. This is an interview to assess whether your child is ready for school. The school administration then decides whether your child should also be assessed through MIKA-D. If so, a second appointment will be made for this.



## What is tested in MIKA-D?

**MIKA-D Primary Level** consists of four sections:

- **“Vocabulary”**: Your child will be shown a large picture. Your child then has to name everything he or she sees in the picture.
- **“Answering questions”**: Here, your child must answer questions about this picture.
- **“Telling a picture story”**: Your child will be shown some picture stories with three pictures each. Your child must then tell the story.
- **“Understanding sentences”**: Your child will be told a sentence. He or she must then choose the picture that matches the sentence from four pictures.

**MIKA-D Secondary Level** includes an additional section:

- **“Gapped texts”**: Your child has to fill in gaps in two texts where some words are missing.



## Does my child have to study for MIKA-D?

Your child does **not have to study specifically** for MIKA-D. It is best when your child practises German **in general**. For example:

1. Talking to other people who are **native German speakers**.
2. **Reading books**. Encourage your child to read books in German. If you like, you can also read them to your child or read together (especially at primary level). Ask the child questions and talk about what is happening in the book. There are also many books in German with **translations into other languages**. If you do not speak German well yourself, read to your child in your native language. This is also useful for any other language.
3. Making use of offers such as **reading days in libraries** (also online). Find out more on the websites of the libraries in your place of residence.
4. Listening to **audio books** in German.
5. Using **media** in German (for example television, films, series, video games).
6. Using **social media** in German (for example podcasts, YouTube, social networks, blogs).





**Further information on MIKA-D:**

[https://www.bmbwf.gv.at/Themen/schule/schulpraxis/ba/sprabi/mika\\_d.html](https://www.bmbwf.gv.at/Themen/schule/schulpraxis/ba/sprabi/mika_d.html)

**Further information on remedial German classes and courses:**

<https://www.bmbwf.gv.at/Themen/schule/schulpraxis/ba/sprabi/dfk.html>

**If you have any questions, please call us: +43 662 620088-3600**

**or send an e-mail: [MIKA@iqs.gv.at](mailto:MIKA@iqs.gv.at).**