

The iKM^{PLUS} – information for legal guardians

Dear parents/legal guardians!

In the following you can see the key information about the iKM^{PLUS} at a glance. If you require further information or if you have any questions, please refer to your child's teacher or to the administration of your child's school.

This information is provided in a number of further languages:

www.iqs.gv.at/ikmplus-uebersetzungen



What is the iKM^{PLUS}?

The abbreviation iKM^{PLUS} stands for '**individuelle Kompetenzmessung PLUS**' (or in English: '**individual skills assessment PLUS**'). The purpose of the iKM^{PLUS} is to provide insight into the progress of your child in the subjects *German* and *Mathematics* and *English* (English only in the 7th and 8th grade).

The results of the iKM^{PLUS} show how far your child has progressed, what skills they have acquired and how they might be able to improve if necessary. The main objective of the iKM^{PLUS} is thus to provide the best possible support to school pupils to help them learn in the future.

The results are to help your child in achieving learning goals and developing skills. **The results will NOT have any impact on the grades. They will also NOT represent the basis for admission to the next higher level of education**

When is the iKM^{PLUS} conducted?

The compulsory basic modules of the iKM^{PLUS} are conducted in all lower secondary schools and in secondary academic schools **every year in the time of around November to January (7th and 8th grade)**, in all primary schools **in the time of around April to May (3rd and 4th grade)**.

The schools themselves determine what actual dates they are to take place and you and your child will be informed by their teacher or the school administration of the dates in good time beforehand.

In addition to the basic modules, the iKM^{PLUS} offers further modules in other subjects and for other grades, some of them to be taken on a compulsory, others on a voluntary basis, a decision that is made at the discretion of the teacher responsible for your child or the administration of your child's school. This will provide them with more information on how they can support your child's progress in learning. Please contact your child's teacher or the administration of your child's school for more details about this.

Is it compulsory for my child to take part in the iKM^{PLUS}?

Yes. All school pupils in the 3rd, 4th, 7th and 8th grade in Austria are required to undergo the iKM^{PLUS} annually as part of their lessons. Exceptions are only permitted if particular circumstances apply; for example, because of the unusual status of your child, because they have special educational needs or a disability and they are unable to complete the related tasks themselves without help.

What form does the iKM^{PLUS} take?

The iKM^{PLUS} takes place during normal lesson times. In the context of the basic modules of the iKM^{PLUS}, your child will solve tasks in the subjects

- *German*: duration approx. 45 minutes
- *Mathematics*: duration approx. 45 minutes
- *English* (only 7th and 8th grade): duration approx. 45 minutes



In most cases, the assessments in the two subjects are undertaken on three different days. **If your child is ill and away from school on an iKM^{PLUS} date, they will be able to complete the corresponding tasks on another date.**

If your child does not achieve competence level 1 in the basic module *German (Reading)*, it will additionally take part in the focus module *German (Simple Reading)* (duration approx. 35 minutes). This will make any problems your child may have in the field of reading more transparent, which will help to support your child more efficiently.



Furthermore, every three years compulsory cycle modules take place in the 4th and 8th grade (for example *German (Listening)*; duration approx. 30 minutes), about which your school administration and teacher will inform you in good time beforehand.



How can my child prepare for the iKM^{PLUS}?

It is not necessary to prepare specifically for the iKM^{PLUS}. Your child will be given all the required information during the lesson by the teacher responsible for them. Pupils are only required to complete the related tasks as far as they are able. There is no need for them to worry about how good they will be at dealing with the iKM^{PLUS} tasks. In fact, it is very unusual for a pupil to successfully complete ALL the tasks. **So it is perfectly OK** if your child is unable to get all the tasks right.

Will I be told the results for my child?

Yes. Every child that takes part in the iKM^{PLUS} is given a **feedback code** by their teacher as soon as the results are available. Using this code, you will be able to download the results for the basic modules online from the iKM^{PLUS} platform. If you would like to know the results for other modules, please contact the teacher concerned.

The results do NOT represent grades. They show how far your child has progressed with the process of learning and in which way it might still be able to improve.

Who is also permitted to see the results for my child?

Only your child's teacher and school administration will also be able to access the results for your child. No other persons will have access to the results for your child. **It is not permitted to pass on the results to other schools.**

For more information on data protection, please go to <https://www.iqs.gv.at/datenschutz-ikmplus-schueler>. If you have questions about the processing of the collected data and the legal basis of processing, please contact the data protection officer of the IQS at datenschutz@iqs.gv.at.



What will happen once the results are available?

You will be invited to a **dialogue session** with your child's teacher during which you and your child will be informed in detail of your child's results and you will be able to together decide on future **learning goals and other ways to help your child**. Your child's teacher or the school administration will send you the invitation to the dialogue session in good time.

The results are also important for teachers. They help teachers continually adapt their lessons to the needs of the pupils they are teaching. The results for the various classes provide the school administration with important information on how the quality of the school and lessons is developing. In addition, the results of the iKM^{PLUS} provide essential insight into the Austrian education system, enabling improvements and developments to be made where necessary.

Where can I find more information?

You can find the latest information at any time on the websites of the IQS (Institut des Bundes für Qualitätssicherung im österreichischen Schulwesen) and the BMBWF (Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Forschung):

<https://www.iqs.gv.at/ikmplus>

<https://www.bmbwf.gv.at/Themen/schule/bef/ikmplus.html>

