

Salzburg, March 2013

**Standard testing Mathematics School Year 4
German pilot ‘Speaking and Talking to one another’**

Dear parents and guardians,

As parents, you are undoubtedly interested in whether your child possesses the basic competencies in Mathematics deemed necessary at the end of primary school. The precise aim of the standard testing is to find out this and also to what extent individual schools and the school system as a whole is successful in attaining this objective. Comprehensive testing of **education standards in Mathematics** is taking place in school year 4 for the first time in the academic year 2012/13. All pupils in school year 4 are tested at state and private schools across Austria with legally governed school type descriptions and public law. A ‘pilot’ (test run) will also be carried out in 26 primary schools selected at random **in preparation for standard testing in German** in 2014 for the competence area of ‘Speaking and Talking to one another’. The objective of this test is to trial newly developed test tasks and procedures and processes. Your child’s class has been selected for this **German pilot ‘Speaking and Talking to one another’**. Not all pupils will take part in the pilot (max. 24 pupils incl. substitute pupils). The class teacher will inform your child of whether he or she is one of the selected pupils.

Legal bases

It is compulsory for pupils to participate in the assessments as part of education standards pursuant to the BIFIE Act (Civil Code I No. 25/2008, Section 6 Para. 2 as amended Civil Code I Nr. 113/2009 as amended Civil Code I No. 7/2013). All pupil data is gathered in an indirectly personal manner. All employees of the BIFIE Federal Institute are compelled to secrecy in accordance with the BIFIE Act (Civil Code I No. 25/2008, Section 3 Para. 2 as amended Civil Code I No. 113/2009 as amended Civil Code I No. 7/2013).

Test dates

Standard testing in Mathematics takes place on one of the following dates:

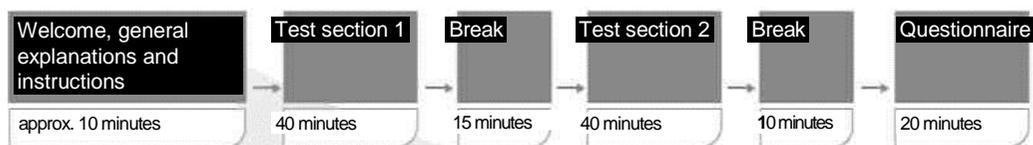
Test date: Tuesday 28 May 2013 or alternative date: Wednesday, 05 June 2013

The test day for the ‘Speaking and Talking to one another’ German pilot is individually agreed by the school management with the test directors and will take place during the following period:

Test window from Monday 08 April to Friday 26 April 2013

Further test information

The **standard testing in Mathematics** takes place during normal lesson time, starts in the first lesson and lasts approximately 3 hours, including explanations and breaks. Please find below the test procedure for standard testing in Mathematics:



The **German ‘Speaking and Talking to one another’ pilot** also takes place during normal lesson time. The selected pupils will be invited to participate in a conversation in pairs for approx. 20 minutes which will include monologue and dialogue phases. Pupils will also receive a short questionnaire which they should bring back to school completed on the day of the test.

Following the test, lessons will take place according to the timetable. Please remind your daughter/son that she/he needs to bring a **set square** to the Mathematics test day. The pupils do not require any special learning equipment on the **test day of the ‘Speaking and Talking to one another’ German pilot**.

Standard testing in Mathematics is administered by specially trained teachers from the school. In a sample of 7 % of the classes tested an external test director will come to school on the day of the test to carry out the testing. These are generally teachers from other primary schools.

The **results will be available** towards the end of the 1st half of the next academic year and will provide information on to what extent pupils have actually attained the competencies striven towards. Also, on the day of the test, pupils will receive a **personal access code**, enabling them to access their **own results** from the standard testing in Mathematics on the Internet. Only pupils will have access to their personal access code. BIFIE cannot replace the access code if it is lost. It is therefore important for the pupils or you as parents/guardians to store the code in a safe place. The result of the testing does not form part of your child’s school mark – teachers cannot assign the results to individual pupils.

In contrast to the standard testing, the **German pilot ‘Speaking and Talking to one another’ will only be administered by teachers who are external to the school**. Two test directors will be used: one person who leads the conversation with the pupils and another person who evaluates the status of the conversation. There will be **no feedback of results** as it is a pilot.

Questionnaires for parents

In addition to the test, information on learning and living conditions inside and outside of school is gathered in questionnaires for pupils, parents/guardians, teachers and headteachers. Your daughter/son will bring the questionnaire for parents/guardians home on the day of the standard testing.

We would ask you to also complete this questionnaire on the day of the test and to return it to school with your child as soon as possible in the sealed envelope. The questionnaires will be collected at the school and returned to BIFIE. Translations of the questionnaire for parents into Albanian, Bosnian, English, Croat, Serbian, Hungarian, Slovenian and Turkish will be available on the BIFIE website (www.bifie.at/node/1829) from May to provide assistance in completing the questionnaire.

Do you want to know more about education standards?

If you would like to find out about the nature of test tasks, you will be able to find sample tasks in the different test subjects (right click on the ‘Approved items’ link) at www.bifie.at/node/58. You can find further information in the enclosed leaflet or on our homepage (www.bifie.at). If you have any further questions or require help, please do not hesitate to contact BIFIE. Our contact details are below:

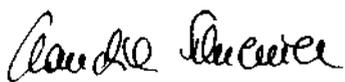
Test execution: **Tel.: 0662/620088-3600; E-Mail: bist4@bifi.e.at**

Feedback of results: **Tel.: 0662/620088-3700; E-Mail: bist4-rm@bifi.e.at**

You can also contact the special interests group of the parents’ associations. In this case, please contact – dependent on competency – either the **Austrian Union of Parents’ Associations for compulsory state schools** (Tel.: 01/53120-3112; Mobile: 0699/153 120 00; E-Mail: office@elternverein.at) or the **Main Union of Catholic Parents’ Associations in Austria** for the parents’ associations of all Catholic private schools (Tel.: 07224 4311; E-Mail: hykev@mautnermarkhof.at).

Thank you in advance for your support!

Kind regards on behalf of the entire team



Dr. Claudia Schreiner
BIFIE Salzburg Centre Management



Mag. Simone Breit, Bachelor of Communications Science
Acting Director BIFIE Salzburg,
Divisional Director for Testing of Education Standards