

## Education Policy Forum 2022 of the Leibniz-Education Research Network (LERN) on educational standards

### Position paper

#### *Abstract*

The Leibniz-Education Research Network (LERN) aims to identify and develop the potential of and for education and to contribute to its better utilization. Based on the fundamental thesis that educational standards are a suitable instrument for reducing performance and equity problems in the education system in Germany, the aim of this year's Education Policy Forum is to explore the corresponding potential of educational standards.

In 2001 the discussion was triggered in Germany by the first PISA study, showing that 15-year-olds in German schools achieved below-average levels of proficiency overall in reading comprehension, mathematics and basic science compared with other countries. In particular, the lowest-performing students in Germany achieved significantly lower results than the lowest-performing students in other countries, and the connection between the level of proficiency achieved and the socioeconomic and immigration background of families was particularly strong in Germany. The German school system was thus said to have both an achievement problem and an equity problem. The proportion of children and young people in Germany who achieve a low level of competence and are at risk of losing touch is still far too high.

The discussion will not be limited to the school sector, but will also include preschool early education, initial and continuing education and the area of ICT. Especially against the background of corona-related school closures, the question remains, what minimum standards of educational offerings are indispensable for the equal-opportunity development into independent personalities.

What minimum standards exist in the various stages of education and in key areas of education? How are they defined and substantiated? What undesirable side effects can result from the definition of minimum standards and how can these be avoided? Do minimum standards help to secure educational opportunities? To answer these questions, five forums will be held as part of the Education Policy Forum, resulting in various demands.

Using this link you can access the full position paper (German only)