

STRUCTURE OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION

Compulsory education has three cycles (three stages):

- **Cycle 1** : Years 1 to 4 (students aged 4 to 8)
- **Cycle 2** : Years 5 to 8 (students aged 8 to 12)
- **Cycle 3** : Years 9 to 11 (students aged 12 to 15)



THE CONTEXT OF FRENCH-SPEAKING SWITZERLAND

All the cantons in French-speaking Switzerland have accepted the **French-speaking Swiss schools' agreement (Convention scolaire romande)**. The agreement enables the cantons to work together to:

- > determine the Curriculum,
- > develop teaching resources (textbooks),
- > organise schooling,
- > train teachers.

>>> [More information: www.ciip.ch](http://www.ciip.ch)

THE NATIONAL AND INTERCANTONAL CONTEXT

The majority of Swiss cantons have adopted **the Intercantonal agreement on harmonisation of compulsory education** (accord HarmoS).

This agreement provides, in particular, for the development of a Curriculum for each linguistic region in Switzerland. It also defines the organisation of schooling over 11 years and specifies 4 years old as the age for starting school.

>>> [More information: www.cdip.ch](http://www.cdip.ch)

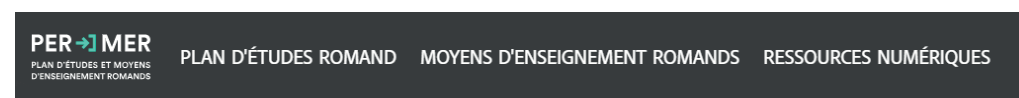
FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

To support the implementation of the Curriculum, the French-speaking Swiss cantons are working together to develop teaching resources (textbooks used by all the cantons and classroom materials). These teaching resources are being introduced progressively in accordance with a timetable set by the CIIP.

>>> [The timetable for teaching resources for French-speaking Switzerland is available here: www.ciip.ch](http://www.ciip.ch)

CURRICULUM FOR FRENCH-SPEAKING SWITZERLAND – WEBSITE

You can find the full Curriculum online. This website is primarily a resource for teachers and its language is therefore appropriate for teaching and subject professionals. There is a glossary to explain some of the terms.



>>> [Find the full Curriculum here: www.per-mer.ch](http://www.per-mer.ch)



Office de l'école obligatoire
et du conseil
Chemin des Lovières 13
2720 Tramelan
T +41 31 636 16 60
www.bkd.be.ch/fr/start.html



Service de l'enseignement
obligatoire de langue
française
Rue de l'Hôpital 1
1700 Fribourg
T +41 26 305 12 27
www.fr.ch/dfac/senof



Direction générale de
l'enseignement obligatoire
Chemin de l'Echo 5A
1213 Onex
T +41 22 327 04 00
www.ge.ch/organisation/direction-generale-enseignement-obligatoire



Service de l'enseignement
Route de Moutier 16
2800 Delémont
T +41 32 420 54 10
www.jura.ch/sen



Service de l'enseignement
obligatoire
Rue de l'Ecluse 67
2002 Neuchâtel
T +41 32 889 69 20
www.ne.ch/autorites/DFDS/SEEO/Pages/accueil.aspx



Service de l'enseignement
Place de la Planta 1
1950 Sion
T +41 27 606 42 00
www.vs.ch/web/def



Direction générale de
l'enseignement obligatoire
et de la pédagogie
spécialisée
Rue de la Barre 8
1014 Lausanne
T +41 21 316 32 32
www.vd.ch/def/dgeo

ciip:

Faubourg de l'Hôpital 68
Case postale 556
CH-2002 Neuchâtel

T +41 32 889 69 72
ciip@ne.ch
www.ciip.ch

Conférence intercantonale
instruction publique et culture
Suisse romande et Tessin



Traduction en anglais

Curriculum for French-Speaking Switzerland (PER) Information for parents

The Curriculum for French-speaking Switzerland (Plan d'Études Romand or PER) defines the learning that all students should cover during their compulsory education. It has been in place for all French-speaking cantons since 2013, enabling a coordinated system of education throughout the French-speaking regions of Switzerland.

Dear parents,

The Curriculum for French-Speaking Switzerland is the product of a long process of discussion and consultation among French-speaking cantons, for the purpose of harmonising compulsory education.

Adopted in 2010 and progressively implemented in 2013, the Curriculum sets out a comprehensive programme of education for students. It describes what students should learn in the course of compulsory education and the levels to be achieved at the end of each cycle (end of Years 4, 8 and 11). Cantons and teaching staff must therefore meet the objectives set out in the Curriculum, but they retain a margin of manoeuvre as regards the ways that the objectives are achieved. Individual cantons may also add some specific subjects depending on their own culture.

This information sheet provides an overview to enable you to understand the structure and content of the Curriculum.

It has been translated into several languages: please contact your canton's education department to obtain a translation.

If you would like more detailed information on the Curriculum for each cycle, you will find a leaflet here:

<https://portail.ciip.ch/per/pages/informations-parents/>



The “Conférence Latine” for compulsory education, June 2024

A SHARED POLITICAL WILL

The French-speaking cantons work together within the Intercantonal Conference for Public Education and Culture in French-speaking Switzerland and Ticino (Conférence intercantonale de l'instruction publique et de la culture de la Suisse romande et du Tessin – CIIP). They have created a shared vision of the school and students' education. In 2003, the cantons adopted a *Declaration on the Aims and Objectives of State Schools* which states that:

« The mission of state schools is to provide education and transmit culture to every student. They ensure that knowledge is built and skills acquired so that all students can optimise their potential. »

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- > **To transfer knowledge to students and develop their skills in different fields of study. >>>**
- > **Schools do not simply pass on knowledge, they also have an educational role in partnership with families. They aim to pass on social values to their students. >>>**
- > **Schools also seek to enable students to develop more general cross-disciplinary skills that will be of use to them throughout their lives. >>>**

This is therefore a comprehensive education programme, taking a holistic approach to the students' development so that they can play a full part in society.

>>> [Further information: www.per-mer.ch](http://www.per-mer.ch)



A comprehensive education programme

School activities are part of a comprehensive education programme, set out in the Curriculum for French-Speaking Switzerland. The curriculum sets out the learning that all pupils should cover throughout their compulsory education.

THE CURRICULUM FOR FRENCH-SPEAKING SWITZERLAND HAS THREE PARTS :

FIELDS OF STUDY

CROSS-DISCIPLINARY
SKILLS

GENERAL
EDUCATION

The comprehensive education programme incorporates all three dimensions in every year of compulsory education.

Fields of study

cover the subjects taught in all French-speaking cantons. Every field of study includes several related subjects.

LANGUAGES

It is now essential to be able to communicate in several languages. Students progressively develop their competence in French and then also in German and English as they move through school.

MATHS AND NATURAL SCIENCES

Scientific knowledge and a scientific approach are needed to understand today's world. To this end, students work with mathematical and scientific concepts that enable them to solve theoretical problems and tackle real-life situations

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Everyone is expected to have the skills to understand the challenges facing society. These challenges have social, cultural, economic, political and environmental aspects. As future citizens, students acquire geographical, historical and civic knowledge enabling them to contribute to the society in which they live.

ARTS

Exploring and practising different forms of artistic expression stimulates creativity. These subjects also allow students to acquire cultural references and develop artistic skills and techniques that enrich their understanding of the world around them

THE HUMAN BODY AND MOVEMENT

By practising sport and learning how to cook healthy and balanced meals, students learn about their bodies and how to take care of them. Students therefore develop their physical abilities through movement and learn the principles of healthy nutrition

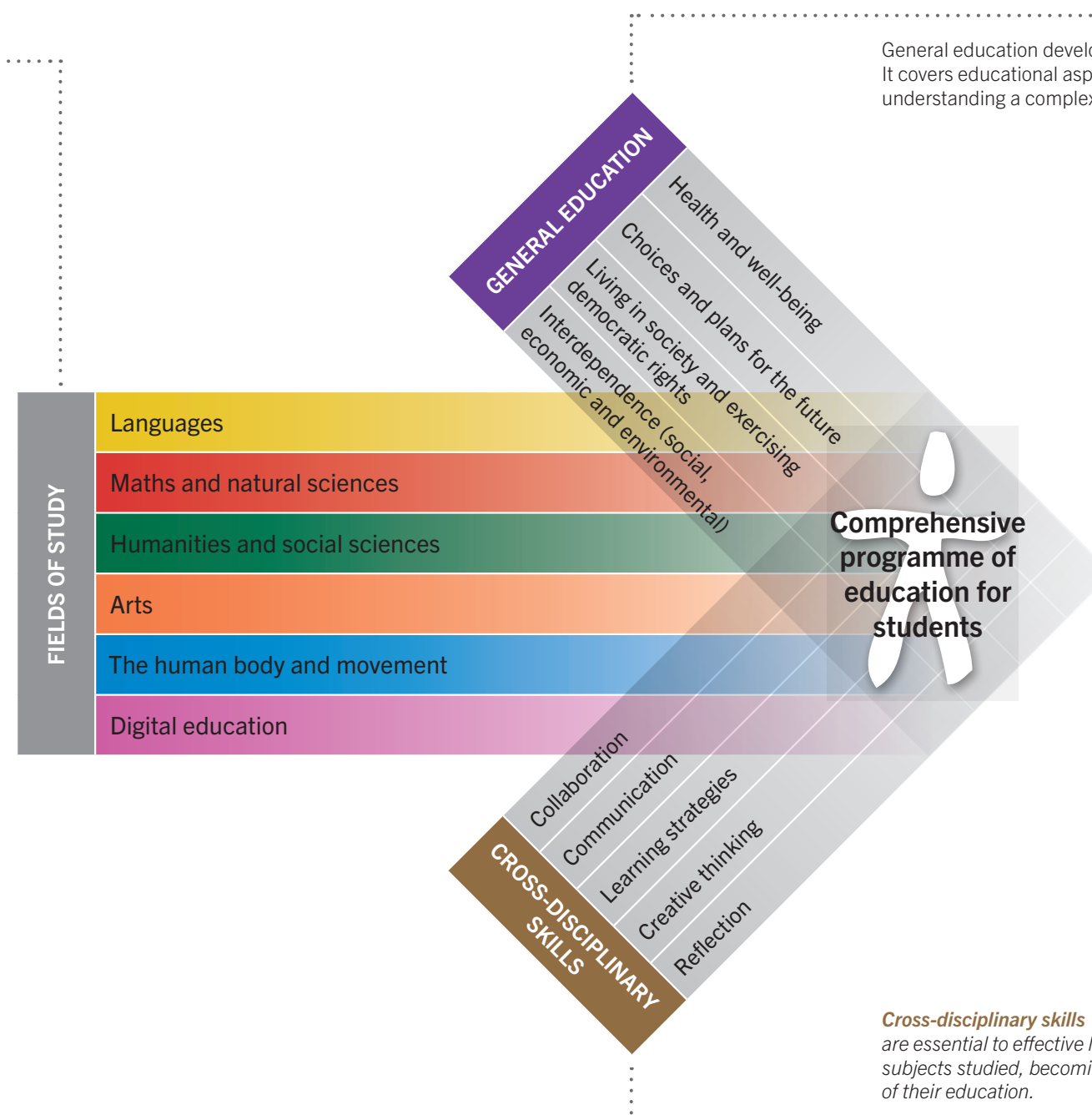
DIGITAL EDUCATION

It is now essential to understand the implications of digital resources, as part of developing a digital culture. To this end, students both develop technical skills and learn to enhance their critical approach to information and images. The aim is to use digital resources effectively and responsibly.

General education

covers a range of matters that schools should take into account in addition to teaching subjects within the fields of study.

General education develops knowledge and skills that go beyond academic subjects. It covers educational aspects while teaching students skills that are essential for understanding a complex world, constructing arguments and living healthily.



Cross-disciplinary skills

are essential to effective learning. They are developed in all subjects studied, becoming useful to students in all aspects of their education.

Throughout their time at school, students develop cross-disciplinary skills, common to all subjects and many classroom activities. These cross-disciplinary skills are not taught separately: students acquire them in ways such as solving problems, communicating in different languages and working on projects. These skills are also important to students after they leave school, for finding a job and contributing to society.

