

## COMPULSORY EDUCATION

There are 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

The **French-speaking Swiss schools' agreement (Convention scolaire romande)** sets out arrangements for cooperation between cantons, including on the Curriculum and books and leaflets (teaching resources).

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

### THE NATIONAL AND INTERCANTONAL CONTEXT

Switzerland has adopted the **Intercantonal agreement on harmonisation of compulsory education** (accord HarmoS) which sets out the length of compulsory education (11 years) and the age for starting school – 4 years old.

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

## FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Books and leaflets for French-speaking Switzerland are used in connection with the Curriculum.

>>> [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 Curriculum for French-Speaking Switzerland online. The website also has the documents of each canton.




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

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Conférence intercantonale  
instruction publique et culture  
Suisse romande et Tessin

ciip:



Traduction en anglais

Version simplifiée

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

All students in French-speaking Switzerland follow the same curriculum – the Curriculum for French-Speaking Switzerland.

Dear parents,

The Curriculum for French-Speaking Switzerland allows all French-speaking cantons to provide the same programme of education. It is based on a great deal of consultation and wide agreement. It is a central shared statement of what students in French-speaking Switzerland should know. It covers every school year from Year 1 in primary school to Year 11. Individual teachers can add other documents to the course for each class.

This document gives an overview of the Curriculum principles. There is a full leaflet on the website: [www.per-mer.ch](http://www.per-mer.ch). You can ask your canton's education department for a translation.

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



The “Conférence Latine” for compulsory education, June 2024



## A SHARED POLITICAL WILL

All French-speaking cantons have a shared vision for schools and students' education. There is a political will to give every child the knowledge and skills to reach their full potential.

« 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

Culture, values and essential knowledge are passed on at school.

>>> [Find out more here: www.per-mer.ch](http://www.per-mer.ch)



# A comprehensive education programme

The Curriculum for French-Speaking Switzerland includes everything that students should learn and know during compulsory education.

THE CURRICULUM FOR FRENCH-SPEAKING SWITZERLAND HAS THREE PARTS:

FIELDS OF STUDY

CROSS-DISCIPLINARY  
SKILLS

GENERAL  
EDUCATION

These apply throughout compulsory education.

## Fields of study

Fields of study cover several related subjects. For example, French, German and English are in the field of languages.



### LANGUAGES

Students learn to improve their communication, speaking and writing in French, and also in German and English.

### MATHS AND NATURAL SCIENCES

Students learn the basics of maths and sciences. They also develop a scientific approach to solving problems and tackling real-life situations.

### HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Students learn about history, geography and being a citizen. This knowledge improves their understanding of today's society.

### ARTS

Students undertake cultural activities such as drawing and music. This helps to develop their awareness and creativity.

### THE HUMAN BODY AND MOVEMENT

Students practise sporting activities and also learn about good nutrition.

### DIGITAL EDUCATION

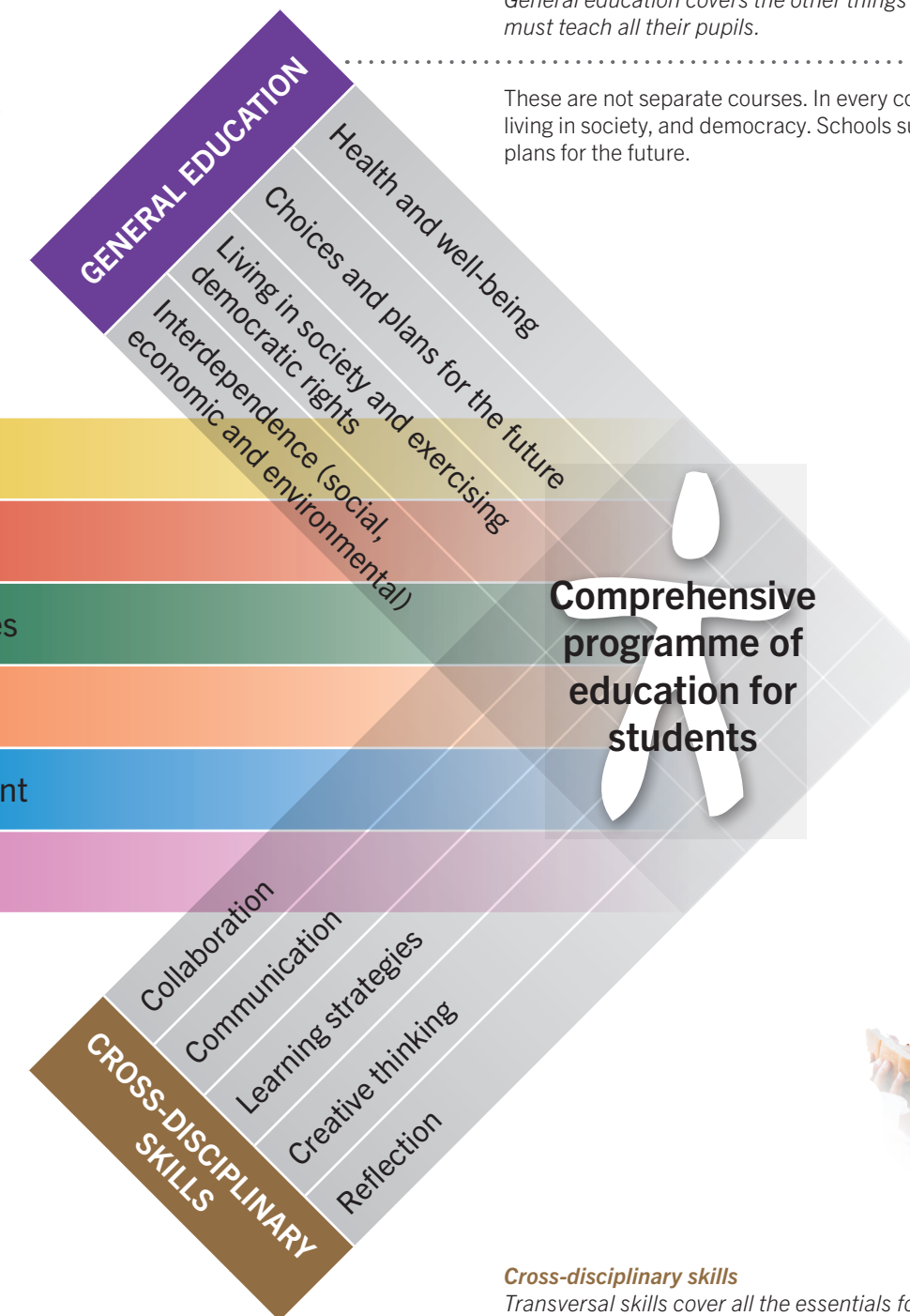
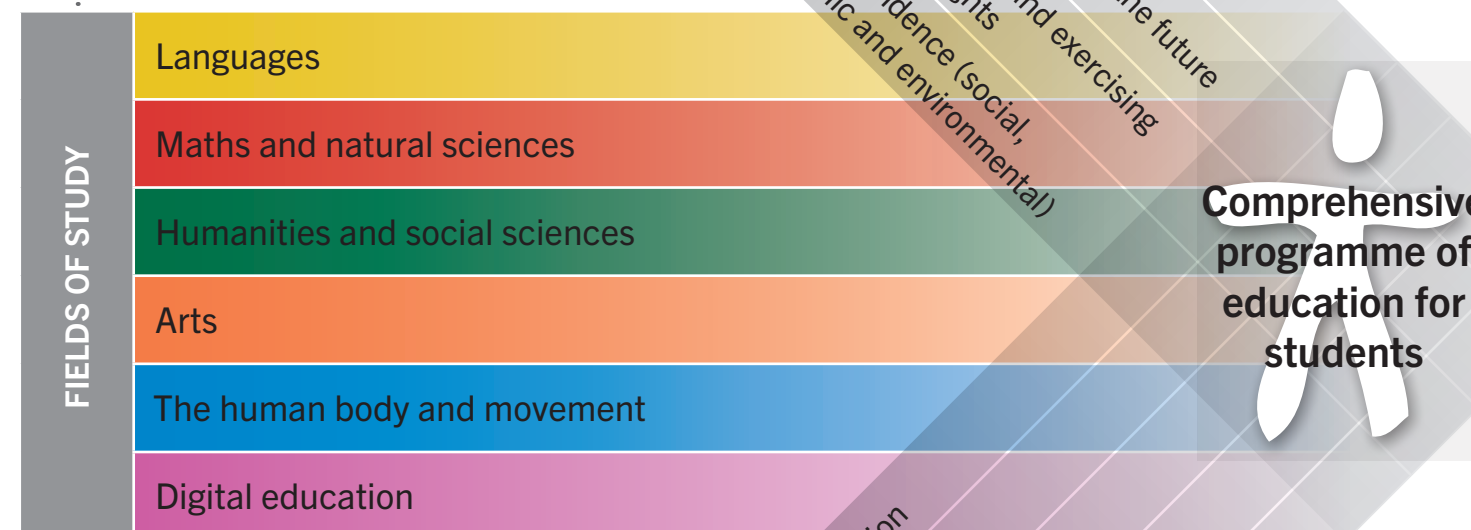
Students improve their knowledge of digital devices, such as computers and telephones, through technical work, and reflect on the ways they are used.



## General education

General education covers the other things that schools must teach all their pupils.

These are not separate courses. In every course, schools focus on health, well-being, living in society, and democracy. Schools support students in making choices and plans for the future.



## Cross-disciplinary skills

Transversal skills cover all the essentials for students' success at school.

They are acquired in every course and every year at school.

They include:

- > collaboration between students
  - > communication
  - > strategies for effective learning
  - > creative thinking – how to find something new when faced with a problem
  - > the reflective approach – how to think around a problem
- These skills are very important when young people leave school and enter the world of work.

