

Table of Contents

Introduction	5
Section one Getting started	7
Chapter 1 Crash course in the Swiss school system	7
Chapter 2 Making the move to a local school	16
Chapter 3 Which school will your child go to?	30
Chapter 4 Learning the school language	42
Chapter 5 Language learning for parents	55
Section two Kindergarten and primary school	64
Chapter 6 The kindergarten curriculum	64
Chapter 7 Examples of kindergarten in practice	74
Chapter 8 The primary school curriculum	82
Chapter 9 Examples of primary school in practice.	86
Chapter 10 Individualisation and comparisons with others	99
Chapter 11 Training in responsibility	105
Section three Lower-secondary school	113
Chapter 12 The lower-secondary curriculum and school models	113
Chapter 13 Pathways to the future	119
Chapter 14 Selection criteria	122
Section four Upper-secondary school	135
Chapter 15 Gymnasium	135
Chapter 16 Apprenticeships – Vocational Education and Training (VET).	150
Chapter 17 Specialised upper-secondary schools	164
Section five Tertiary education	168
Chapter 18 Three types of tertiary education	168
Chapter 19 University and UASA entrance requirements	175
Chapter 20 Applying to universities abroad	181

Section six	Working together with the school	187
Chapter 21	The role of parents and teachers	187
Chapter 22	Communicating about your child	193
Chapter 23	Dealing with bullying	202
Chapter 24	Special needs	208
Chapter 25	Gifted children	219
Chapter 26	Appealing school decisions	232
Section seven	Cantonal variations	239
Chapter 27	Cantonal tables	239
Chapter 28	Structural changes in various cantons	253
Section eight	Appendices	257
Appendix 1	Contact details of the 26 Cantonal Departments of Education	257
Appendix 2	Standard school terminology in four languages	260
Appendix 3	Useful school terms in Swiss German	264
Appendix 4	Acronyms used in this book	265
Endnotes		269
List of tables		281
Index		283
Acknowledgements		297
About the author		299
About Bergli Books		300
Reader questionnaire		303