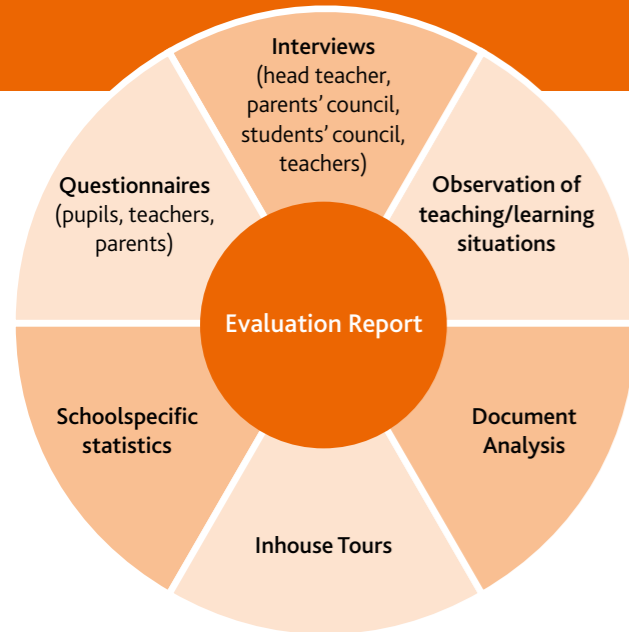


## OUR CONTRIBUTION TO QUALITY DEVELOPMENT



Multitude of Methods and perspectives

The framework of the external inspection is the so-called "Orientierungsrahmen Schulqualität (ORS)", a 40-page document, in which the criteria for a "good school" are defined.

All elements of the inspection process (questionnaires and interviews) follow these criteria. The main focus is on quality of lessons and learning success of pupils.

## THE ROAD AHEAD – POST-REPORT

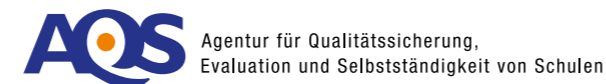
The results of the external inspection are the basis for further goal-setting within a school. To ensure sustainable quality development, law requires the schools to reach binding goals in so-called "target agreements" with the respective school supervisory board. The school and the school supervisory board discuss the results and sign a contract in which 1) the objectives of the next period, 2) the means to control the process and 3) internal evaluation methods are defined.

The school supervisory board and other educational institutions are also responsible for providing support in the school development process.

## CONTACT AND INFORMATION

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## DEVELOP GOOD SCHOOLS EXTERNAL EVALUATION IN RHINELAND-PALATINATE



AQS (Agentur für Qualitätssicherung und Selbstständigkeit von Schulen) is the agency for school inspection in Rhineland-Palatinate, one of the sixteen federal states of the Federal Republic of Germany. By order of the ministry of education, all state schools are to be inspected regularly.

The external evaluation is part of a comprehensive school quality offensive. Its goal is to gain sustainable improvement of lessons and school processes.

In addition to the evaluation of individual schools, AQS also produces composite summary analyses which provide the basis for political decision-making.



Doris Ahnen, Minister for Education,  
Science, Youth and Culture



# OUR CORE COMPETENCY FOR GOOD SCHOOLS

AQS is an interdisciplinary team of pedagogues and scientists, administration and information technology personnel. AQS is also supported by numerous specially-trained, qualified teachers as augmentees (or “co-inspectors”), made up of teaching colleagues from schools. Together with the AQS team, they fulfill highly professional demands and provide a reduced logistical burden to a team responsible for evaluations throughout the entire state of Rhineland-Palatinate.

As a developing organization, AQS utilizes numerous instruments to analyze its own work and to ensure its own highest standards of quality. Following each evaluation, the team leadership solicits feedback from involved parties. AQS conducts regular quality reviews of its own processes, bringing external agencies in to conduct scientific advisement. The AQS team reinforces its professional standpoint in issues of school development and empirical social research through professional exchanges with regional, national, and European-wide networking.

## MEASURING SCHOOL QUALITY

In order to be able to measure the quality of school reliably, the AQS uses empirical methods of data collection and analysis. Hereby all members of the school community are included. This is accomplished using written surveys of students, teaching staff, and parents, as well as discussions with school administration, teachers, parents, and student representatives. The AQS visiting team reviews numerous lessons, with the results collected and analyzed using a unique rating scale. The local institution supporting the school and “dual partners” are also identified and reviewed within the scope of an evaluation. A school’s quality assurance program, state and school statistics and observations during the school introduction are used as further sources of reference. The collected data is measured against scientific standards and encompassed in an evaluation report which outlines the school’s strengths and areas needing further development.

## WE VISIT ALL SCHOOLS REGULARLY

Schools which are selected for evaluation will receive a visit from the AQS team. Ahead of the evaluation visit, a school is thoroughly informed of the methods and procedures of external evaluation. On the day of the school visit, the AQS team holds discussions with all involved parties, observes numerous class lessons and takes a tour of the school premises.

Each school receives a highly detailed report of the results of their school visit. During a feedback conference, also attended by the school’s supervisor, the AQS teamleader will present the team’s key findings as contained in the report. The report serves as a reference point for further development of a school’s quality assurance program and is the basis for a binding contract of goals between the school and the school’s supervisory board.

