

FAQ about the Deutschlandticket used as a school travel pass

Version: 24/04/2026

What does the Deutschlandticket look like?



The Deutschlandticket is a chip card (see above).

The first name and surname appear in the bottom left corner on the **front** of the card.

Note: Due to the character limit, long names may be displayed in abbreviated form.

On the **back** of the card, the technical expiry date (month/year) is shown in the top line of text in the white section. **This technical expiry date does not necessarily reflect the ticket's validity.** The card number is printed in the second line of text.

When is the Deutschlandticket valid from?

The Deutschlandticket can be used for the 2026/2027 school year and for subsequent school years providing the student is still eligible. The chip card must therefore be kept in a safe place at the end of the school year.

For newly eligible students in the 2026/2027 school year, the Deutschlandticket can be used from the start of the school year. The new tickets are usually issued physically at the schools.

The chip card will cease to be valid if the student is no longer entitled to free school transport as per the regulations of the school transport provider (*Schulwegkostenträger*) in the student's district or city.

A student's entitlement to a chip card will be assessed on an individual basis.

A valid ticket can be used for travel to and from school as well as for journeys outside of school hours, including at weekends, on public holidays and during school holidays (**except for the summer holidays as a general rule; see next question for 2026 rules**).

Can the Deutschlandticket be used during the 2026 summer holidays?

As a general rule, the Deutschlandticket for eligible students cannot be used during the summer holidays.

More specifically:

- The Deutschlandticket cannot be used during the summer holidays as a general rule. The ticket is blocked automatically. This means that the ticket will show up as “invalid” on the scanner during that period and will be confiscated upon use.
- Restricted use on 1 July: The Deutschlandticket can be used on the last day of school even though it has been blocked, but only for journeys within the area of the Verkehrsverbund Region Braunschweig (VRB). This includes the cities of Braunschweig, Salzgitter and Wolfsburg, as well as the districts of Gifhorn, Goslar, Helmstedt, Peine and Wolfenbüttel. All transport companies in the VRB area will accept the ticket on this day. However, this rule does not apply to journeys that extend beyond the VRB area.
- If a student is still entitled to the Deutschlandticket in the 2026/27 school year and this has been confirmed by the school transport provider (*Schulwegkostenträger*), the Deutschlandticket will be activated at the start of the school year and will once again be valid on public transport nationwide. Tickets are activated in accordance with the regulations in your district or city, which acts as your school transport provider.
- Keep your chip card: Students can continue to use their existing chip card during the new school year. New chip cards are issued for some grades (depending on the school transport provider). The school transport providers (or schools) will notify those students concerned. Cards are blocked and activated automatically via back-office systems. It is therefore important to keep the chip card in a safe place until the start of the school year.

Which tickets can be used during the summer holidays if the chip card cannot be used?

The VRB offers attractive ticket deals so that you can continue to travel by bus and train anywhere in Germany or the VRB area during the summer holidays.

- Summer holiday ticket for U21s (price €24.90): All young people up to and including the age of 20 can use the ticket from Thursday 2 July 2026 to Wednesday 12 August 2026 to travel anywhere in the VRB area at any time. The area includes the cities of Braunschweig, Salzgitter and Wolfsburg, as well as the districts of Gifhorn, Goslar, Helmstedt, Peine and Wolfenbüttel. The ticket can be used on all buses, trams and commuter trains. It can be purchased from 2 June 2025 from any official ticket office as well as via our regional apps (VRB Fahrinfo&Tickets, Meine BSVG and WVG App).
- Deutschlandticket (price €63.00): If you want to travel nationwide, you can purchase a Deutschlandticket for the month of July, for example via our regional apps (VRB Fahrinfo&Tickets, Meine BSVG and WVG App).
Please note: The Deutschlandticket is a season ticket and must be cancelled by 10 July 2026 in order for it to terminate at the end of July.

All information about ticket deals can be found online at www.vrb-online.de/tickets

Where can the Deutschlandticket be used?

In contrast to the previous student travel card (*Sammel-Schülerzeitkarte*), the Deutschlandticket can also be used for non-school travel on any public transport run by any participating companies throughout Germany, including buses, trams and trains on the suburban, underground and regional rail networks.

The ticket can also be used within the VRB area for on-demand bus services (*Rufbus*, *flexo-Bus* and *Bürgerbus*). For call-and-collect taxis providing a door-to-door service, a convenience surcharge is applied.

On which modes of transport can the ticket not be used?

The Deutschlandticket cannot be used on

- ICE trains
- IC/EC trains
- Flixtrains
- long-distance buses such as FlixBus
- modes of transport intended solely for tourists, such as heritage railways and cable cars.

In which train class can the Deutschlandticket be used?

The Deutschlandticket is only valid for second-class travel.

How to use the Deutschlandticket

When you board a bus or train, you must show the Deutschlandticket or hold it in front of the ticket scanner.

For students aged 16 and over, the Deutschlandticket is only valid if an official photo ID is shown with the ticket.

Students must have their ticket and ID card with them at all times when travelling on public transport.

What personal data does the chip card contain?

The student's first name and surname are printed on the chip card; the Deutschlandticket product information and the student's date of birth are stored in the chip.

Can other people travel on the ticket?

Children up to and including 5 years of age can travel free of charge on the Deutschlandticket. Children aged 6 and over require their own ticket.

Are students allowed to take a bicycle or a dog with them free of charge?

In the VRB area, a bicycle day ticket is required if you want to take a bicycle with you or, alternatively, a cost-effective 8-day bicycle ticket can be purchased.

You can take a dog with you at no extra cost within the VRB area.

Note:

For travel beyond the VRB area, the fare regulations and conditions of carriage of the neighbouring transport system or transport company will apply. You may therefore have to pay extra to travel with your bicycle or dog. Please make enquiries before travelling.

How is the Deutschlandticket issued?

Students either receive the Deutschlandticket at school from their local authority or it is sent by post to their registered home address. The school transport provider in the student's place of residence will determine the applicable procedure in individual cases and will notify those concerned about the procedure for issuing and delivering the ticket.

If the chip card has not arrived by the start of the school year or if it is issued during the school year, the student will receive a provisional ticket until the card arrives. Provisional tickets are valid throughout the VRB area but may not be used nationwide.

Can the Deutschlandticket subscription be temporarily suspended?

The ticket is basically designed for use during the school year (**excluding summer holidays**).

Some school transport providers issue chip cards (known as "winter tickets" – *Winterkarten*) that are valid from October/November to March/April). The school transport provider determines how long these cards are valid for.

What happens when I leave school or change school/move house?

When you leave school or are no longer entitled to the card, the chip card will be blocked and can no longer be used. The same applies if you lose your entitlement during the school year, for example if you change school or move house (e.g.: distance from home to school is below the eligibility threshold). The competent school transport provider will arrange for the chip card to be returned.

Do eligible students have to pay for the Deutschlandticket?

No, eligible students receive the Deutschlandticket free of charge.

What should I do if I lose my Deutschlandticket or the card gets damaged?

The loss or damage must be reported to the competent school transport provider or the school, stating the student's name and date of birth. The lost or damaged card will be blocked. An administrative fee - to be determined by the issuing authority - will be charged for a new chip card. Students will receive the new chip card at school, at the local authority office or by post sent to their registered home address.

The administrative fee is paid in person at the site of issue or by bank transfer to the school or school transport provider.

The student will receive a provisional ticket issued by the school or the competent school transport provider for use until the new card arrives.

Provisional tickets are valid throughout the VRB area but may not be used nationwide.

What should I do if there is a ticket inspection?

The chip card or provisional ticket must be shown to the inspector.

As per the fare regulations applicable to the Deutschlandticket, **students aged 16 and over** must present a valid photo ID in addition to the chip card (or provisional ticket). You must therefore have the ticket with you on every bus and train journey.

Students **under the age of 16** do not require an ID card. To check the data, as well as showing your chip card (or provisional ticket), simply give your name, date of birth, school and school district when asked to do so.

What happens if my ticket shows up as “invalid” on the ticket scanner?

If the (digital) scanner displays the word “invalid”, information provided orally by the passenger, such as name and date of birth, will be checked against the data stored on the chip card. Such issues are the responsibility of the competent transport company.

If a ticket has been blocked or fraud is suspected, the ticket inspector can confiscate the chip card and refuse to allow the passenger to continue their journey. The passenger may continue their journey by purchasing an additional ticket (single ticket, day ticket, etc.).

If the inspection reveals that the Deutschlandticket presented has been blocked or has been used by an unauthorised person, the transport company may issue a penalty fare, known as an EBE in German.

The penalty fare must be paid into the account indicated on the back of the form. The contact details for queries are also provided on the form.

If you feel that the inspector has wrongly issued a penalty fare or confiscated the chip card, please contact your school transport provider (*Schulwegkostenträger*) for clarification. Providing information about the transport company, transport route or line and time of travel will help them clarify the issue.

Are you allowed to make a hole in the Deutschlandticket in order to attach it to a key ring?

No, that is not permitted. Chip cards contain a chip that holds all the data required for a ticket inspection (ticket type, area of validity, ticket validity, first name, surname and date of birth). Making a hole in the chip card in order, for example, to attach it to a lanyard or key ring damages the card and renders it unusable. The card can then no longer be inspected. The same applies to trimming or damaging the chip card in any other way.

If the Deutschlandticket becomes unusable due to damage, a new chip card will be issued subject to an administrative fee (amount to be determined at the place of issue).

We recommend lanyards with an integrated card holder that can accommodate the Deutschlandticket. During a ticket inspection, however, the ticket must be held in front of the scanner without the card holder, as the chip may otherwise not be readable depending on the type of card holder.