

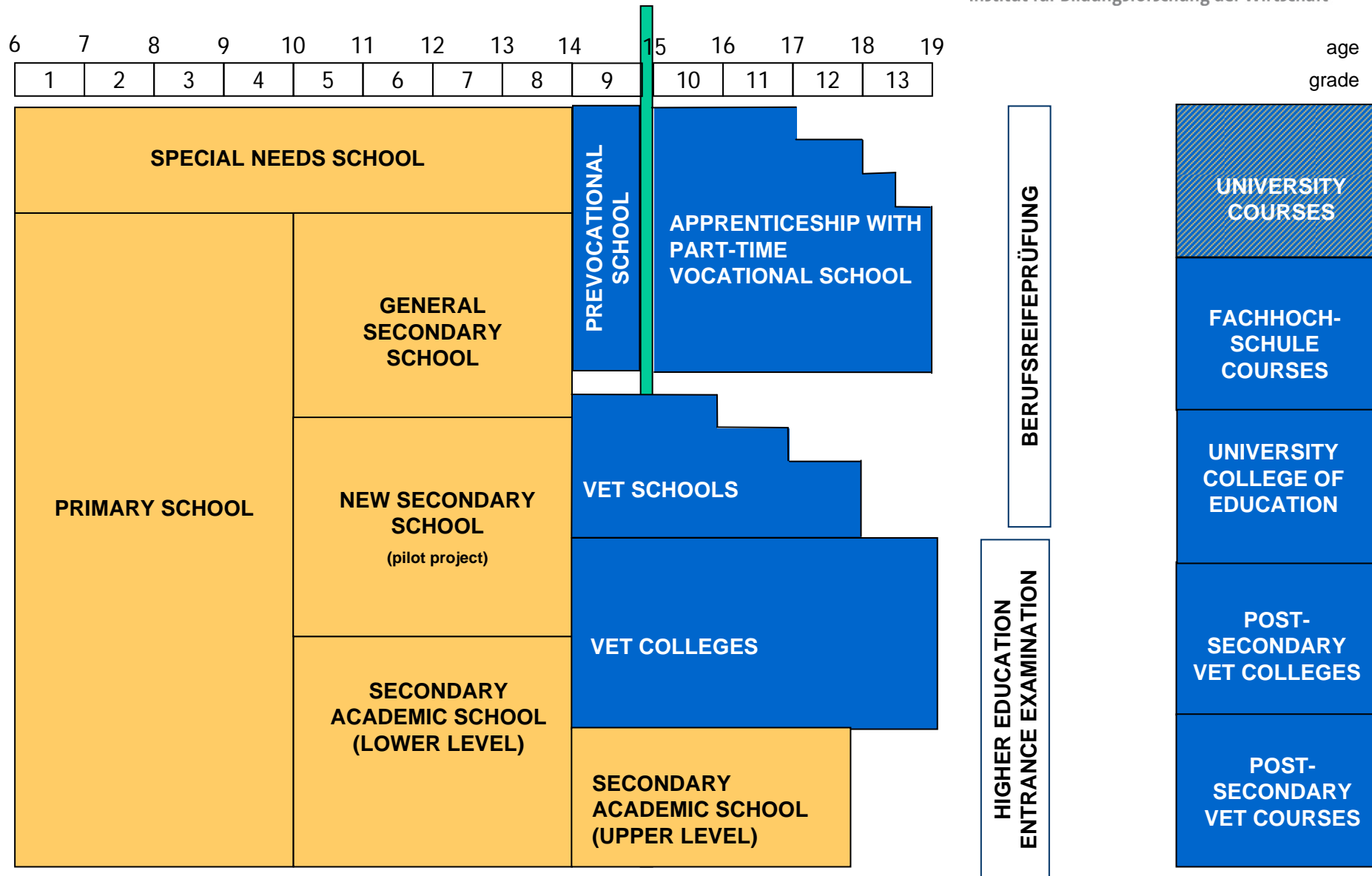
The Austrian Education System

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Layout: Nicole Boute

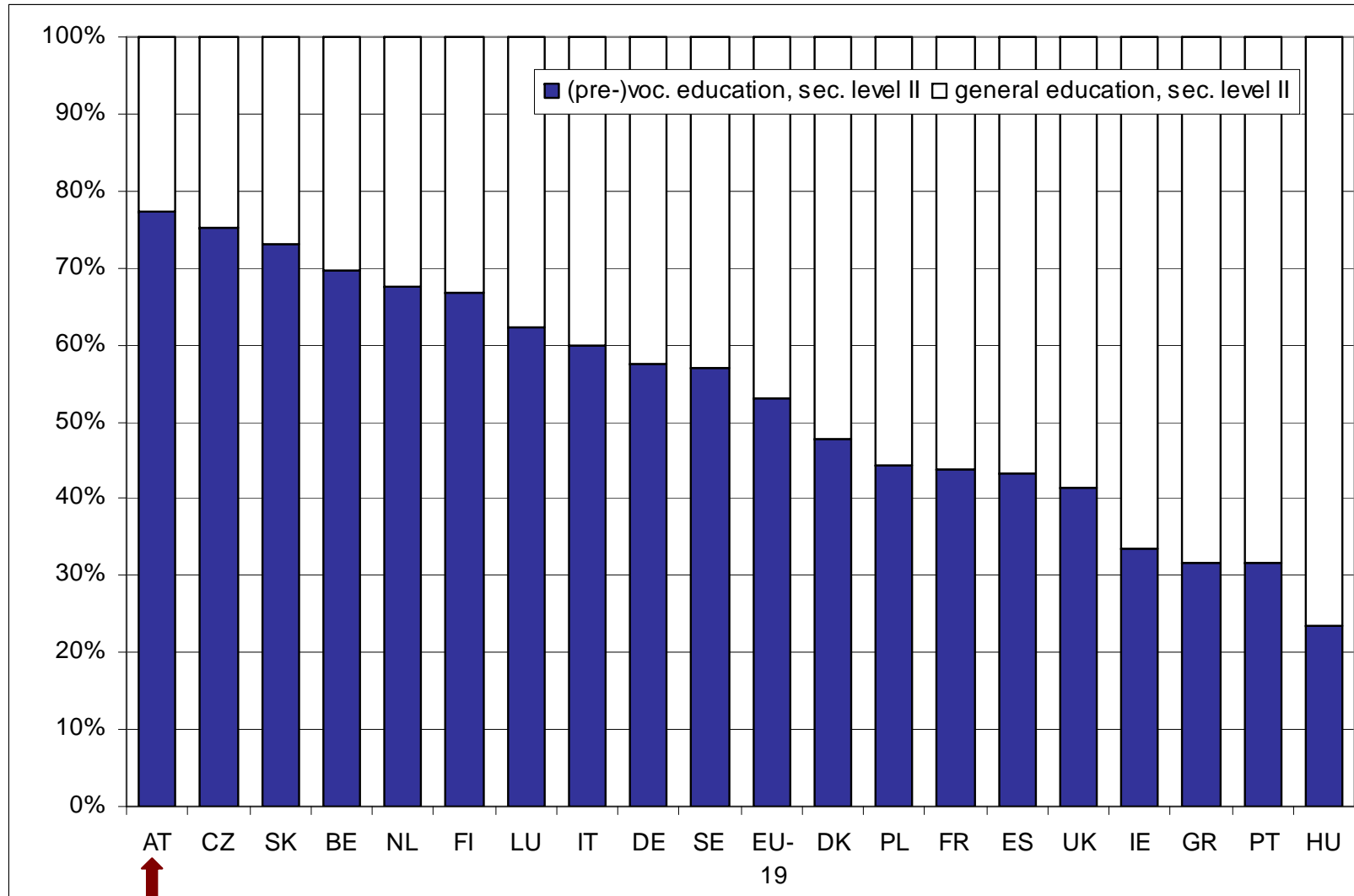
Austrian Education System [1/3]



Austrian Education System ^[2/3]

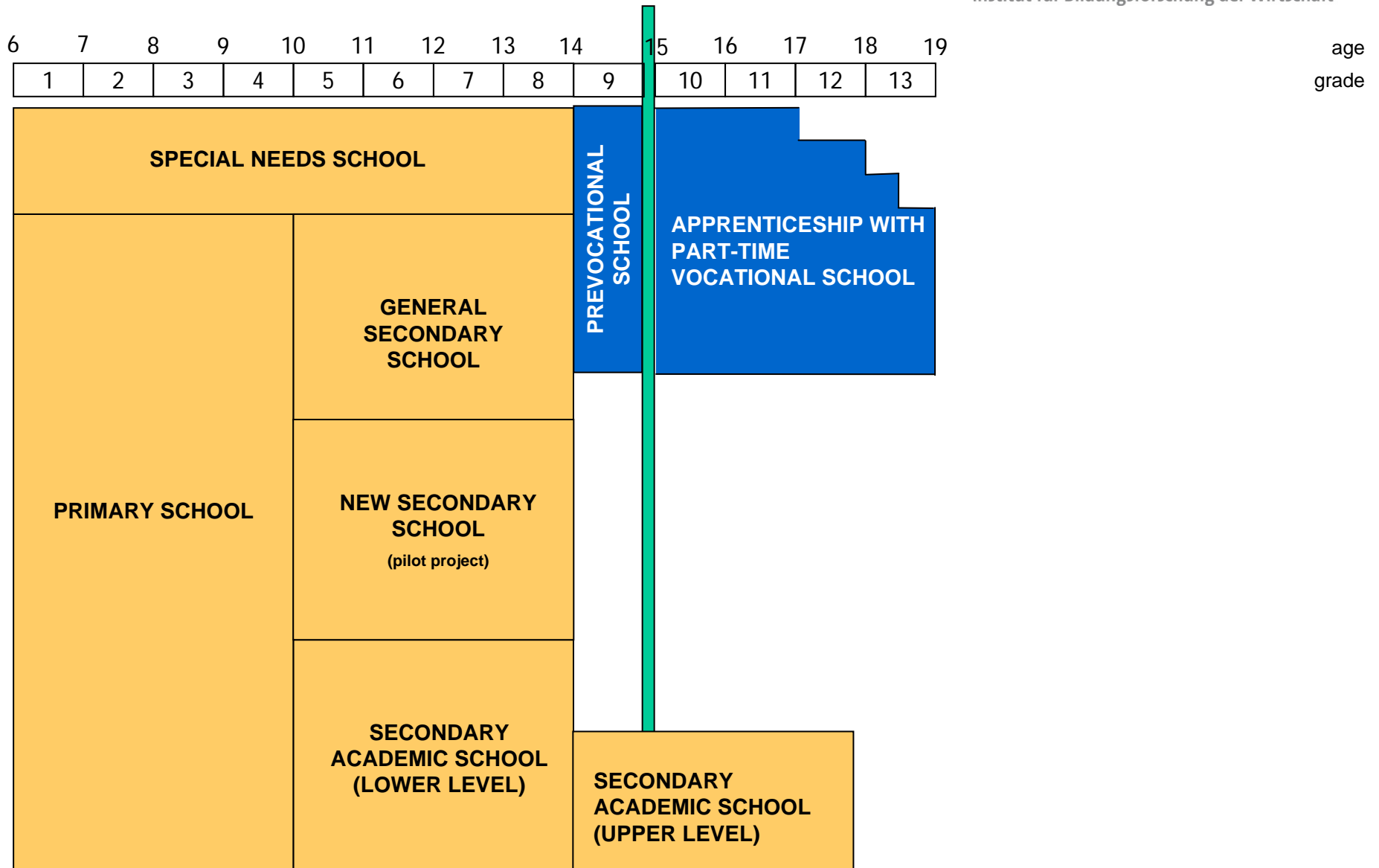
- Obligatory schooling: nine years
- Secondary level I: choice between general secondary school and secondary academic school (lower level); NEW: new secondary school (pilot project)
- Secondary level II: secondary academic school (upper level) and a broad variety of VET options
- High attractiveness of VET (~ 80% of all learners in 10th grade are in VET)
- Full-time VET schools and dual system
- Permeability
- Access to tertiary education (university, *Fachhochschule* courses, university college of education): HE entrance examination, *Berufsreifeprüfung*

VET vs. general education [3/3]



Source: OECD (2009): „Education at a Glance“

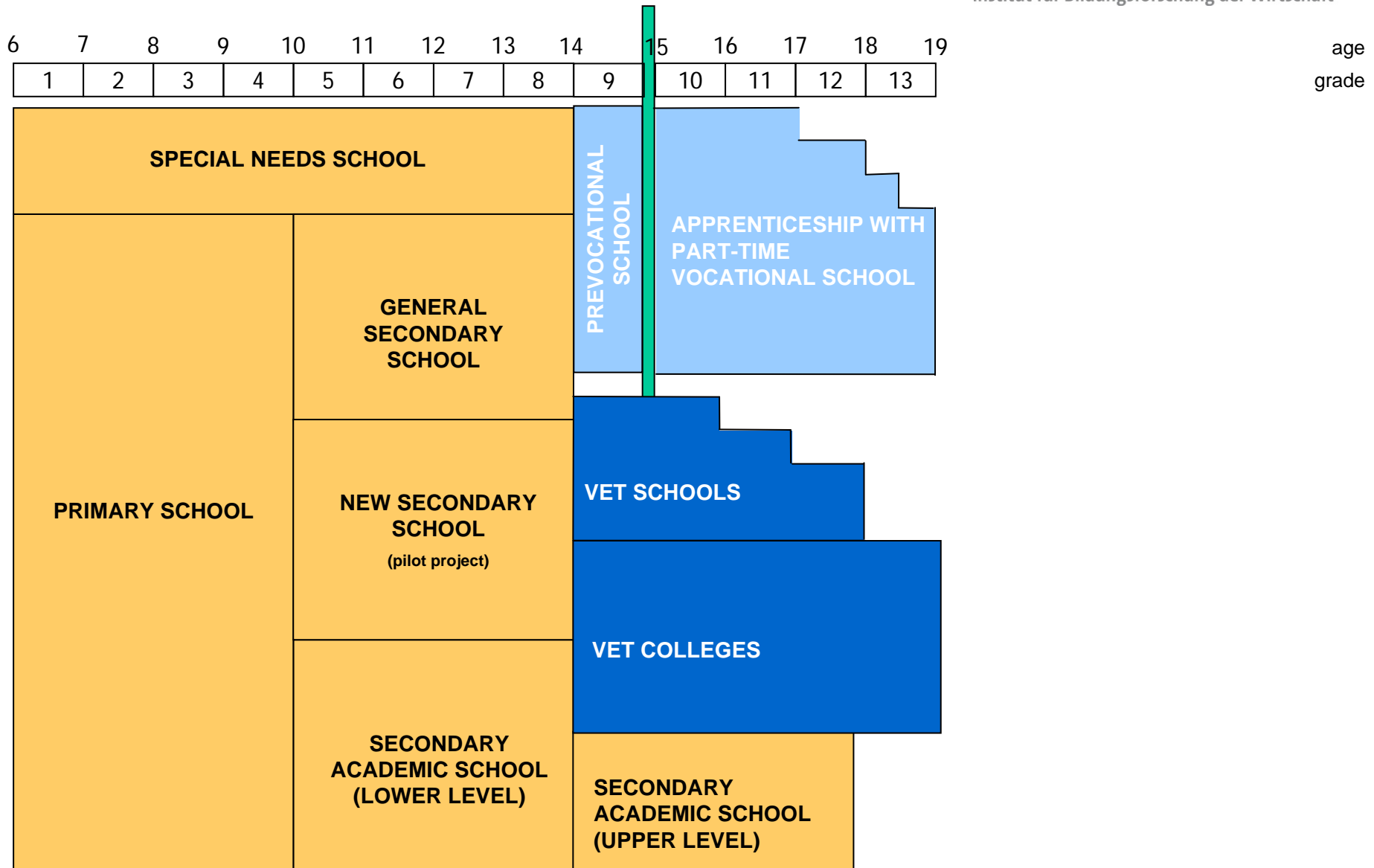
Austrian IVET system [1/8]



- **Prevocational school (*Polytechnische Schule, PTS*)**
 - **Age:** 15 years
 - **Access requirement(s):** completion of secondary level I
 - **Duration:** one year
 - **Focus:** pre-VET, general education

- **Apprenticeship / dual system (*Lehre / duales System*)**
 - **Age:** 15 to 19
 - **Access requirement(s):** completion of obligatory schooling
 - **Duration:** two to four years
 - **Focus:** practical company-based training, obligatory attendance of part-time school for apprentices

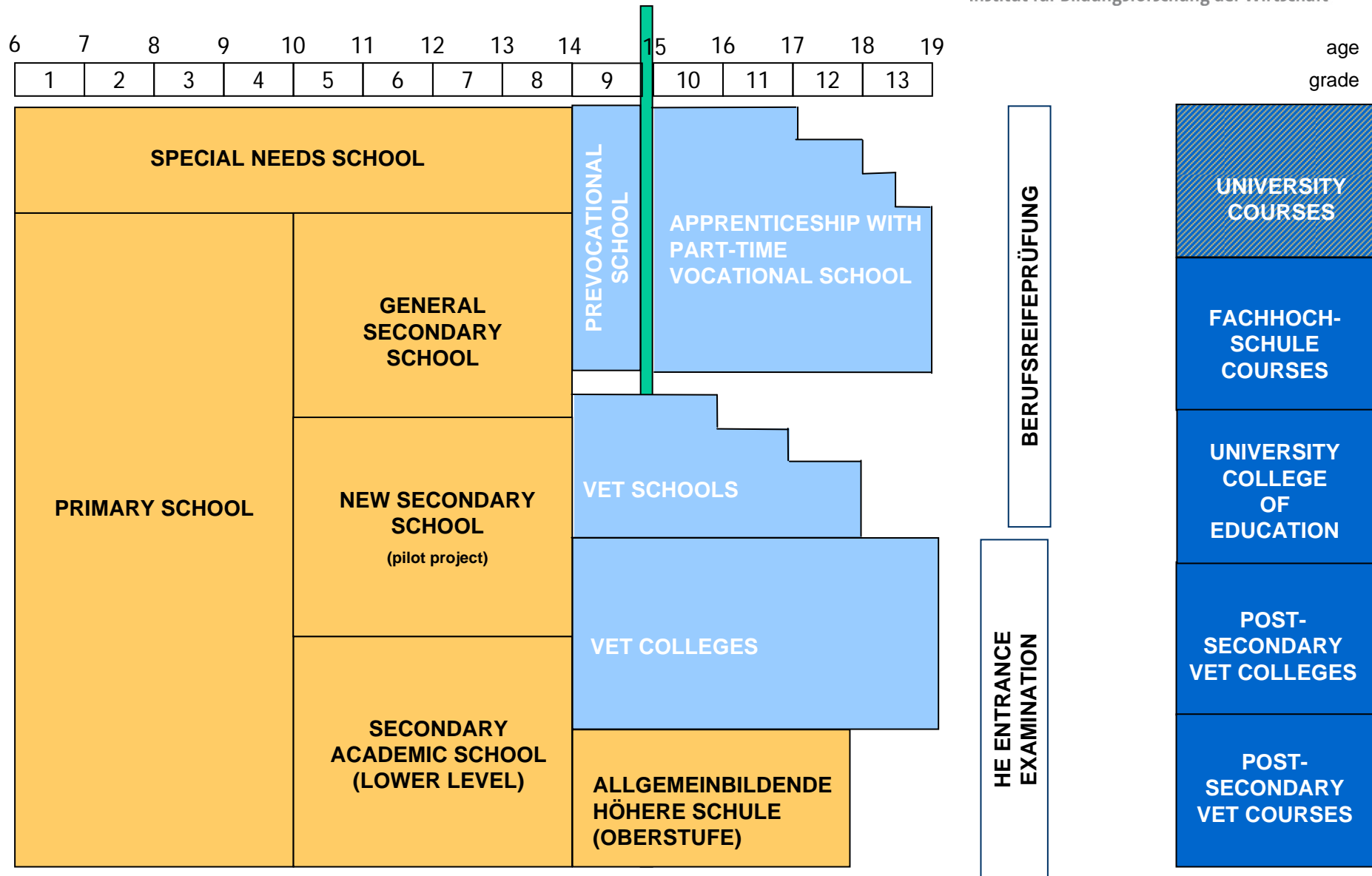
Austrian IVET system [3/8]



- **VET school (*berufsbildende mittlere Schule, BMS*)**
 - **Age:** 15 to 18
 - **Access requirement(s):** completion of year 8 of compulsory schooling
 - **Duration:** one to four years
 - **Focus:** complete VET for certain occupations, general education

- **VET college (*berufsbildende höhere Schule, BHS*)**
 - **Age:** 15 to 19
 - **Access requirement(s):** completion of year 8 of compulsory schooling; sometimes also pupil's record of achievement, entrance examination
 - **Duration:** five years
 - **Focus:** high-quality specialised training, thorough general education; double qualification – VET and access to higher education

Austrian IVET system [5/8]



- ***Reifeprüfung and VET Diploma (Reife- und Diplomprüfung)***
 - **Students:** graduates of VET colleges
 - **Type:** double qualification – unrestricted access to higher education and VET for high-level jobs
 - **Age:** 19

- ***Berufsreifeprüfung (BRP)***
 - **Students:** graduates of VET schools and apprenticeship
 - **Type:** unrestricted access to higher education
 - **Age:** 19+

- **Post-secondary VET courses (*Kolleg*)**
 - **Age:** 18+
 - **Duration:** two years
 - **Access requirement(s):** HE entrance examination
 - **Focus:** VET, targeted at graduates of secondary academic schools (upper level)

- **Post-secondary VET colleges (*Akademie*)**
 - **Age:** 18+
 - **Duration:** two to four years
 - **Access requirement(s):** HE entrance examination
 - **Focus:** VET for specific profession (e.g. health professions)
 - **Trend:** conversion into *Fachhochschulen* (tertiary level)

- **University**
 - **Age:** 18+
 - **Duration:** four to eight years (Bachelor, Master, PhD)
 - **Focus:** comprehensive (pre-)VET

- ***Fachhochschule***
 - **Age:** 18+
 - **Duration:** four to six years (Bachelor, Master)
 - **Focus:** comprehensive VET (in particular in engineering and natural sciences)

- **University college of education (*Pädagogische Hochschule*)**
 - **Age:** 18+
 - **Duration:** four to six years (Bachelor, Master)
 - **Focus:** training of teaching staff for primary and secondary I level