

Dresden Teacher Training from 1945 to 1989

The resumption of school operations in Dresden in August 1945 was accompanied by a largely consistent anti-fascist and democratic school reform. In order to meet the great demand for teachers in the short term, temporary solutions were set up for training new teachers. Courses for new teachers were created, such as the one in the 'Home School for Teacher Training' opened in Dresden-Wachwitz on August 23, 1945.

In two-month courses and, starting in January 1946, in eight-month courses, lower secondary school and upper secondary school graduates received basic training, later supplemented by in-service training. A tie-in to educational reform issues and an almost 50% share of educational psychology and practical school training elements showed clear parallels to Dresden's pre-1933 tradition of teacher training.

The new teacher training was phased out when the Institute for Teacher Training Dresden-Neustadt was founded. In the rebuilt Dreikönigsschule on Wigardstrasse, a two-year teacher training program—again disconnected from the traditions of Saxon academic elementary school teacher training—was established starting September 24, 1952.

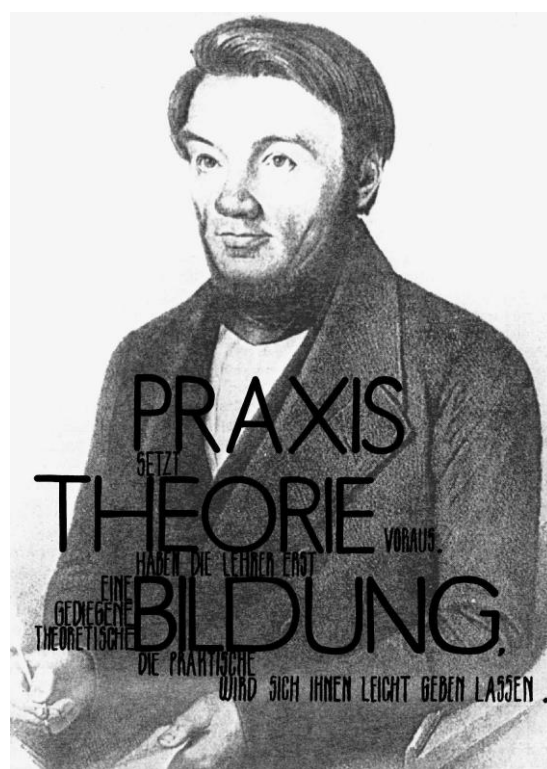


The destroyed Dreikönigsschule building

As the director, Hans Siebert strengthened the perspective of the new teacher training college with his decision to affix the inscription 'Pädagogische Hochschule' (Pedagogical University) to the institute building on his own authority. The establishment of training courses for lower secondary school teachers for grades 5–8 and the opening of a Pedagogical Institute (PI) in the same building on September 11, 1953 led to the discontinuation of teaching at the Institute for Teacher Training Dresden-Neustadt in 1955. From then on, the only institute left in the Dresden area was the Institute for Teacher Training, which was established in 1951 in the building of the Radebeul Schiller School and, as of 1955, on Steinbachstrasse. It was one of many training centers for lower-level teachers in the GDR that were again decentralized. The Pedagogical Institute in Dresden commenced its work in 1953 with 242 students and 18 teachers.

Under Siebert's administrative management style, a one-sided orientation toward Soviet pedagogy soon became noticeable, as did a strong emphasis on schooling for both in-person and distance learning. In addition to Educational Psychology, subject-specific and methodological studies, the compulsory curriculum from then on included Marxism-Leninism, Physical Education, Russian, musical and artistic training, and several internships in Dresden schools and companies.

In 1954, the pedagogical institute was named after the popular teacher Karl Friedrich Wilhelm Wander (1803–1879).



Karl Friedrich Wilhelm Wander (1803–1879)

On September 1, 1967, the Dresden institute was granted university status. Teacher training then took place in a four-year degree program in the 1970s and a five-year diploma level program in the 1980s, with combinations of subjects based on need and standardization. Approx. 250 academics and 2,000 students worked at the University of Education in teaching and research.



University of Education in Dresden

In the late 1980s, there were plans in the GDR to (re)academize lower-level teacher training. The Radebeul Institute for Teacher Training, which had trained teachers for grades 1–4 in the subjects German, Local History, Mathematics, Physical Education, Handicrafts, Art Education, and Music as a technical school since the beginning of the 1950s in both in-person and distance learning, from 1972 friendship pioneer leaders, and, for many years, home and after-school educators in a very practice-oriented manner, was affiliated as a technical school part of Dresden University of Education from the 1989/1990 academic year, retaining the Radebeul institute with its then 607 students and 103 employees.

The political changes that took place starting in the fall of 1989 led to the 'dissolution' of the institutes, the degree programs, and the staff of Dresden University of Education. Times of uncertainty and temporary solutions followed in 1992 by the (re-)integration of the teacher training programs for elementary, lower secondary, and vocational schools as well as upper secondary schools into the newly founded Faculty of Education at Technische Universität Dresden.