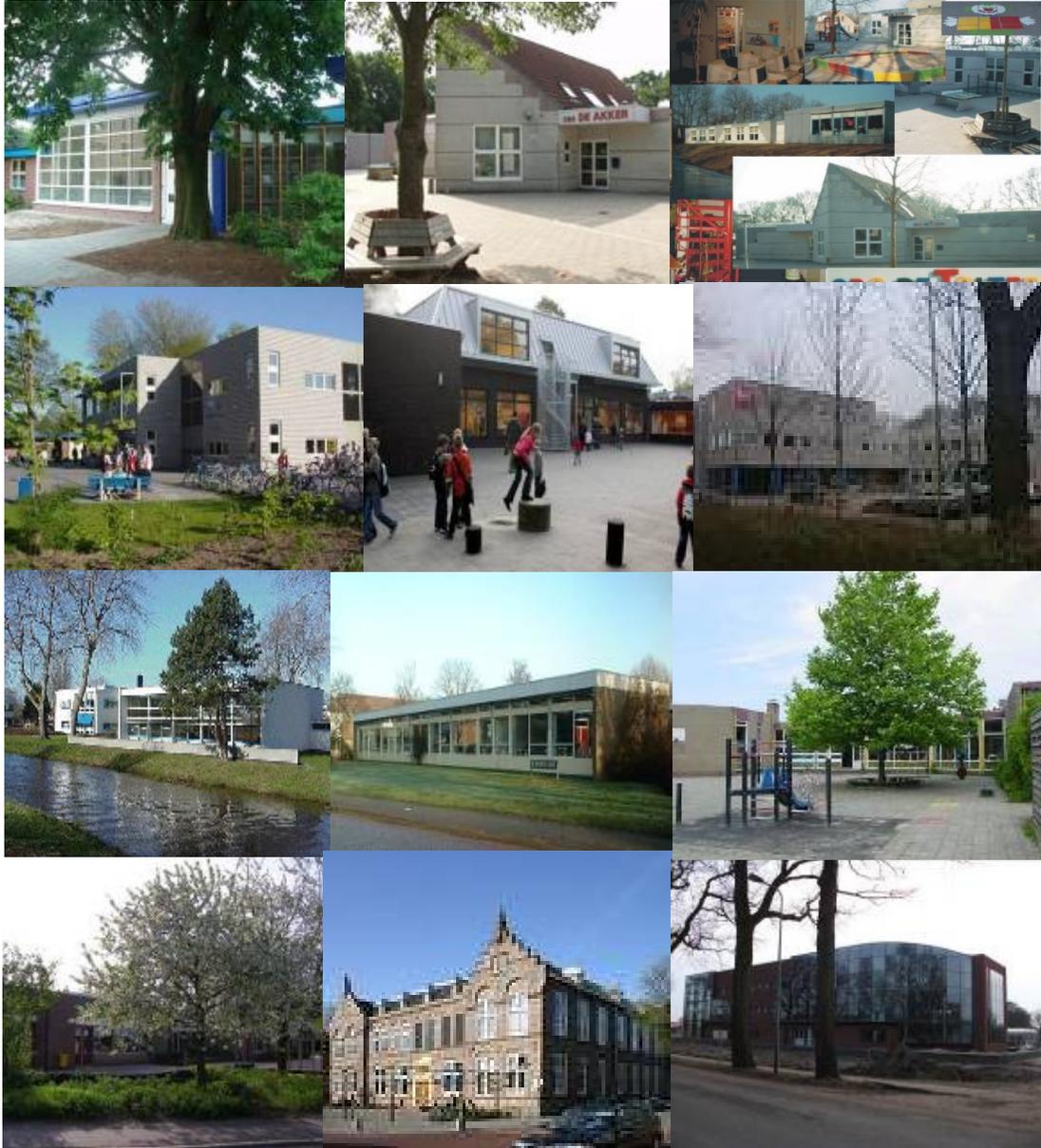


# DUTCH EDUCATION



# SCHOOLS IN MEPPPEL

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# 1 Preface

Since 1999 the Twin-cities Most and Meppel have been cooperating in a pleasant and fruitful way. At 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009 both the mayors have signed an agreement for the continuation of this cooperation.

The purpose of this Town-twinning is to get to know each other better and to learn from one another in different areas.

From the beginning of the Town-twinning a number of successful contacts and exchanges between schools in Most and Meppel have taken place.

During a symposium in Most, on the level of local authorities, from the 29<sup>th</sup> till 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2010 the involvement of citizens in the public decision-making will be discussed. ICT, education and wellbeing are special themes.

As part of the symposium Mr. Peter de Visser, managing director of the comprehensive school “Stad en Esch”, will tell about the planning of a new complex of schools for secondary and higher education in Meppel. In addition to this Mrs. Marisa Grotens is representing the ‘Stenden University’ in Meppel.

The intention of this booklet is to give information about the educational systems in the Netherlands and about the different schools in Meppel. With the help of these data and the same information about schools in Most we like to examine the possibilities of cooperation in the widest sense of the word. For instance the transfer of knowledge in the field of education, the exchange of students and teachers, traineeships and so on.

If exchanges will be organized in the framework of European cooperation there is a good chance to get subsidies.

As anyone knows, good education is fundamental for our society. A Dutch proverb says: “The one who has the youth, has the future”. No doubt there is a similar saying in Czech!

In a recent report of the OESO the educational level of 77 countries has been compared. The level in the Czech republic and in the Netherlands is high, with a twelfth and eleventh place. These are results which can make you happy, but education continually must keep on moving. We have to be alert for watching over the level and raising the output.

We hope that you will read this booklet and to think about the possibilities and chances to cooperate. We will appreciate if you get in touch with the board of the Foundation Town-twinning.

We are looking forward to a pleasant cooperation in the time ahead.

March 2010

On behalf of the Foundation Town-twinning Most-Meppel,  
Ulke van Ittersum and Jan Lanjouw



# DUTCH EDUCATION

## 2 Dutch Education

### 2.1 Introduction

Education in the Netherlands is characterised by division. Education is oriented towards the needs and background of the pupil and is divided over schools for different age groups.

Some of these in turn are divided in streams for different educational levels.

Schools are furthermore divided in public schools and special (religious) schools and private schools. The first two are government-financed.

Public schools are controlled by local government.

Special schools are controlled by a school board.

Education policy is coordinated by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, together with municipal government. Private schools and public schools both receive equal financial support from the government if certain criteria are met.

The Government's 'Education Inspection' regularly controls the education results.

Schools can be asked (forced) to make changes in educational policy.

Results of all kinds of schools are published on internet.

Practically there is little difference between special schools and public schools, except in some traditionally religious areas or towns and villages.

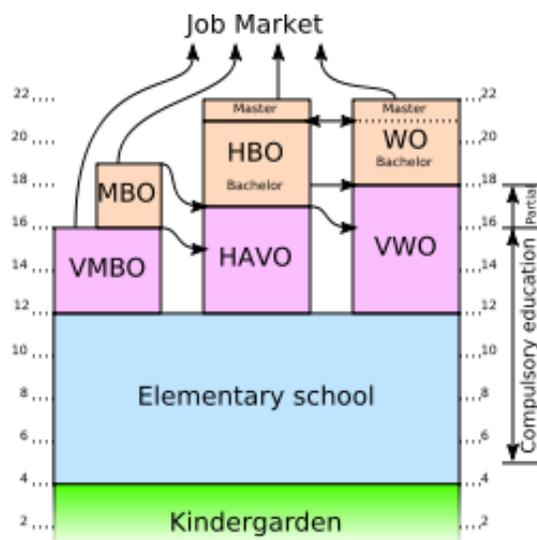
There is a considerable number of publicly financed schools which are based on particular education ideas, for instance the Montessori method, Dalton Plan or Jena plan.

Some special schools are based on educational philosophies. (Rudolf Steiner).

#### Compulsory education

Compulsory education in the Netherlands starts at the age of five. (Almost all children commence the BASISCHOOL at four.) From the age of sixteen there is a partial compulsory education.

This education ends when pupils reach the age of eighteen.



## 2.2 Primary Education Elementary School

Primary schools in the Netherlands cater for children aged 4 to 12.

This school has eight grades, called 'group'.

There are three levels. General subjects are taught like Dutch language, reading, mathematics, writing, geography, history, drawing, handcraft, physical training, etc.

From group 3 on, children will learn how to read, write and do math.

In group 7 and 8 many schools start teaching the English language.

In group 8 the vast majority of schools administer the CITO-test, to recommend what type of secondary education should be chosen. In recent years this test has gained authority, although some schools like to add special items. Other qualities should be analysed like for instance perseverance and stability.

Primary education aims to broadly educate pupils.

The eight-year primary school curriculum focuses on pupil's emotional, intellectual and creative development along with acquisition of essential social, cultural and physical skills.

Dutch primary education is based on providing children with made to measure curricula.

Schools are given free rein to spend their budgets as they see fit, for example on personnel or ICT.

However, the increased flexibility is paired with assuming responsibility for the results achieved. (Attainment targets)

Special primary schools cater for children with a learning, physical or social disability, providing them with special education and giving them extra care.

There are 4 types of schools and help.

Cluster classification:

1. Cluster 1: Visually blind and partially sighted.
2. Cluster 2: Deaf and hard of hearing, speech- and language disorders.
3. Cluster 3: Mental disability and psychotic disorders.
4. Cluster 4: Social behaviour disability.

Regular and special schools are working together, to make sure that every child has got the right facilities. More and more regular schools have to create places for children who are lightly handicapped. (Inclusive education.)



SCHOOL



SCHOOL



## 2.3 Secondary education

After attending elementary education, Dutch children go directly to secondary education. Children from the age of 12 are eligible for admission to secondary education, of which there are four types of curriculum:

[2.3.1 Pre-vocational secondary education \(VMBO\). Age 12-16.](#)

[2.3.2 Senior general secondary education \(HAVO\). Age 12-17.](#)

[2.3.2 Pre-university education \(VWO\). Age 12-18.](#)

[2.3.3 Practical training. Age 12-18.](#)

VMBO takes four years and leads on to secondary vocational education. (MBO)

HAVO is a five-year programme and leads on to higher professional education. (HBO)

VWO takes six years and leads on to university. (WO)

All three types of secondary education are for children aged twelve and begin with a period of basic secondary education. The first year of all levels is referred to as the 'bridging class'. During this year, pupils will gradually learn to cope with differences such as dealing with an increased personal responsibility.

The core curriculum in the first two years of secondary school is more or less the same for all school types. Pupils follow the same subjects: languages, mathematic, history, arts and sciences, geography, physical education, etc.

### 2.3.1 VMBO

VMBO. 60 % of the students nationally are enrolled in VMBO. The prevocational secondary school lasts four years, from the age of twelve to sixteen. It combines vocational training with theoretical education in languages, mathematics, history, arts, and sciences.

VMBO itself has **4 different levels**, in each a different mix of practical vocational training and theoretical education is combined.

Level 1: TL. \* This is the most theoretical education.  
\* It prepares for middle management and vocational training in the MBO. (=Senior Secondary Vocational Education.)  
\* It is needed to enter HAVO.

Level 2: GL. \* This is a mixed learning path.  
\* It prepares to MBO.

Level 3: KBL. \* This is a middle management-oriented learning path.  
\* It teaches the theoretical education and vocational training equally.  
\* It prepares for middle management and vocational training in the MBO.

Level 4: BBL. \* This is a basic profession-oriented learning path.  
\* It emphasis vocational training and prepares for vocational training in the MBO.

### 2.3.2 *HAVO and VWO*

In HAVO and VWO in the fourth course year, the education program is based on:

A. Subject combinations , the so called profiles:

- \* Culture and society
- \* Economy and society
- \* Nature and health
- \* Nature and technology

B. The study house:

This 'study house' system requires students to acquire skills and knowledge in a more independent capacity and prepares them for higher education.

HAVO has five grades. HAVO-students must also choose one to three additional subjects. Furthermore Dutch and English, as well as some minor subjects, are compulsory. Sometimes pupils choose more than two subjects combinations. This can result in multiple profiles.

VWO has six grades. The VWO shares the profiles system and the study house described above with the HAVO route. There is a difference with HAVO. The difficulty level is higher and the second education period lasts three years instead of two. The VWO is divided in **Atheneum** and **Gymnasium**. A **Gymnasium** programme is similar to the **Atheneum** programme, except that Latin and Greek are compulsory courses. VWO –plus offers extra subjects like philosophy, extra foreign languages and courses.

### 2.3.3 *Practical education*

- Practical Education: \* This education consists out of mainly vocational training. This training prepares pupils for entering the labour market.
- \* It is meant for pupils who would otherwise not obtain their VMBO-diploma's.
  - \* For all these levels there is LWOO- education, which means: learning support education.
  - \* It is intended for pupils with disabilities: Educational- or behavioural problems.
  - \* These pupils are taught in small classes by specialised teachers and receive practical education.( PRO).
  - \* Age 12-18.
  - \* This type of advanced special school uses the Cluster 1-4 classification as well as the primary school does. (Page 5)



## 2.4 Vocational education, training and adult education

There are 40 Regional Training Centres in the Netherlands. These centres offer a complete range of adult and vocational education courses. They provide Vocational Education in three sectors:

a. **ROC.**

ROC means literally: Regional Education Centre.

Vocational education in:

Engineering and Technology.

Economics and Health.

Social Care.

b. **AOC.**

AOC means literally: Agrarian Education Centre.

Vocational education in:

Agriculture.

Natural environment.

Food technology.

c. **Adult education.**

Adult education offers adults courses focusing on social sufficiency and citizenship, and the mastery of Dutch as a second language.

In vocational education, courses of study have been adjusted to better suit the labour market. In light of the ever-growing demand for MBO- (upper secondary vocational education) and HBO- (higher professional education) graduates, an important goal for the coming years is to encourage students to move on to higher secondary school levels and prevent dropouts.

Vocational education offers participant from the age of 16 years old a choice of 700 vocational courses, four trainings levels and two different routes in which courses can be followed.

All vocational courses combine work with study.

There are two types:

\* Vocational training with a practical component of no less than 20 % and no more than 60 %.

\* Vocational training with a practical component of at least 60 %.

There is a full-time college-based route that includes work placement and there is a part-time work-based route, which combines part-time education with an apprenticeship in a company.

More information in English about Dutch education:

[www.minocw.nl](http://www.minocw.nl)

## 2.5 Higher education

Higher education comprises:

### 2.5.1 Higher professional education (HBO)

This type of education is provided by HBO institutions (Hogescholen) and offers a Bachelor degree programme. This programme takes four years.

HBO institutions provide theoretical and practical training for which a higher vocational qualification is either required or useful. Graduates find employment in various fields, including middle and high-ranking jobs in trade and industry, social services, health care and the public sector.

In the Netherlands there are about 43 colleges offering 200 different programmes for a variety of professions in a range of social areas.

Anyone who wishes to attend an institution of higher education or wants to know more about the higher education will find relevant information on the NUFFIC website. [www.nuffic.nl](http://www.nuffic.nl)

### 2.5.2 University education (WO)

This type is provided by universities. Universities combine academic research and teaching. University education focuses on training in academic disciplines, the independent pursuit of scholarship and the application of scholarly knowledge in the context of a profession. It aims improve understanding of the phenomena studies in the various discipline and generate new knowledge.

Universities may divide their state aid between education and research. Bachelor's degree courses take three years. Graduates with a bachelor's degree can go on to do a masters degree. Master's degree course take between one and two years, depending on the subject. It takes three years to get a master's degree in medicine. Once students have graduated, they may specialise or carry out research. There are 14 'regular' universities in the Netherlands, including three technical universities and one agricultural university.

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A Bachelor's, Master's and PhD degree structure was introduced in 2002, which is intended to give students greater international mobility. In concert with this shift, the value of study programs must be more easily recognisable, and they will be accredited to indicate quality.

At the same time, the ECTS credit system was adopted as a way of quantifying periods of study. A student's workload (both contact hours spent studying and preparing assignments is measured in ECTS credits, whereby under Dutch law one credit represents 28 hours of work and 60 credits represent one year of full-time study.

# SCHOOLS IN MEPPEL

## 3 Schools in Meppel

In the description of the different schools in Meppel only the headlines are mentioned. Details can be found on the internet sites. Most schools offer a photo site, by which different impressions are given.

### 3.1 Primary schools

In Meppel there are **16** different primary schools:

#### 3.1.1 *Six public schools. Local government (municipality) is responsible.*

\* **OBS De Koedijkslanden.**

[www.koedijkslanden.nl](http://www.koedijkslanden.nl)



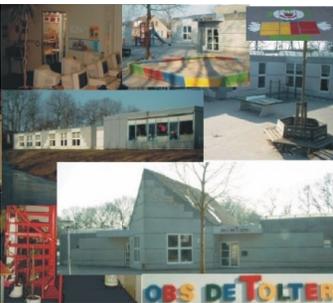
\* **Zuiderbasisschool.**

[www.zuiderbasisschool.nl](http://www.zuiderbasisschool.nl)



\* **OBS De Tolter.**

[www.detolter.nl](http://www.detolter.nl)



\***OBS De Woldstroom.** Two locations. One of them is in the neighbourhood of Meppel and is a first receiving school

[www.obsdewoldstroom.nl](http://www.obsdewoldstroom.nl)



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\* **Oosterboerschool.**

[www.oosterboerschool.nl](http://www.oosterboerschool.nl)



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\***OBS.Commissaris Gaarlandt.** Nijeveen. (In the neighbourhood of Meppel.)

[www.commissarisgaarlandt.nl](http://www.commissarisgaarlandt.nl)



3.1.2 *Five special schools with a Christian school board, which is responsible.*

\* **Anne Frankschool.** Two locations of which one in the centre of the town of Meppel.

[www.annefrankschool.nl](http://www.annefrankschool.nl)



\* **CBS Het Kompas.**

[www.cbshetkompas.nl](http://www.cbshetkompas.nl)



\* **CBS De Akker.**

[www.cbsdeakker.nl](http://www.cbsdeakker.nl)



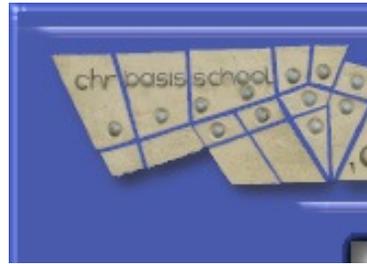
**\*Koningin Beatrixschool.**

[www.beatrixschool.nl](http://www.beatrixschool.nl)



**\*CBS De Wel. Nijeveen.**

[www.cbsdewel.nl](http://www.cbsdewel.nl)



**3.1.3** *One special school with a Calvinistic Christian school board.*

**\* Johannes Calvijnschool.**

[www.calvijnschoolmeppel.nl](http://www.calvijnschoolmeppel.nl)



**3.1.4** *One special school with a Catholic school board. Dalton education.*

**\* Mgr. Niermanschool.**

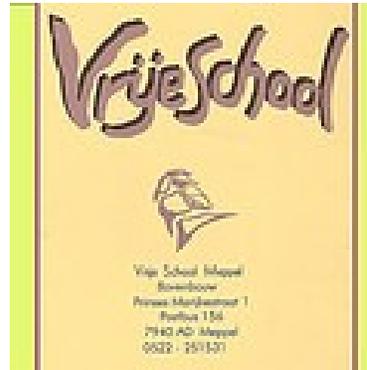
[www.niermanschool.nl](http://www.niermanschool.nl)



3.1.5 *One special school with education based on the philosophy of Rudolf Steiner.*

\* **Vrije School Meppel e.o.**

[www.vrijeschoolmeppel.nl](http://www.vrijeschoolmeppel.nl)



In a certain area of Meppel there are advanced plans to build a kind of new school which is called: Community school. This means that there will be created a large building for three different schools, together with a library, sporting halls and a music room. The three schools will keep their own responsibility, but can use together the sporting facilities. Parents can use health- and social assistance and there will be created facilities for different kinds of playgroups. A nursery class, afterschool, preschool, and a lunch-time centre will be added too. This year they start to build this school.



Impression community school.

3.1.6 *One special school for children with learning, social and behaviour disabilities.*

\* **Reestoeverschool.**

[www.reestoeverschool.nl](http://www.reestoeverschool.nl)



3.1.7 *One special school for children with mental learning disabilities.*

\* Mackayschool.

[www.mackayschool.nl](http://www.mackayschool.nl)



### 3.2 Secondary schools

Children from the age of twelve(!) are eligible for admission to secondary school.

#### 3.2.1 AOC Terra. VMBO green.



AOC Terra: Education with a green heart.

[www.aocterra.nl](http://www.aocterra.nl)



In the Northern part of the Netherlands there are 7 AOC Terra VMBO green schools. They are working close together.

This school is situated in the centre of the town of Meppel.

As soon as possible pupils will move to a beautiful new building, close to AOC Terra MBO (Senior Secondary Vocational Education)

Cooperation between these two schools will be closer and easier then.

Education directions:

VMBO=pre-vocational secondary education:

\*GL=mixed learning path.

\*KBL=middle management-oriented learning path.

\*BBL=a basic profession-oriented learning path.

Extra: Sporting classes and a Cult(ural) class.

Education subjects: among others: general subjects like different languages, mathematics and agrarian techniques, care for animals, plant cultivation, floriculture, etc.

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3.2.2 *CSG Dingstede.*

[www.dingstede.nl](http://www.dingstede.nl)



Christian school.

Education directions:

\*VWO=pre university education.

\*HAVO=senior general secondary education

\*VMBO TL=MAVO=junior general secondary education.

Extra: Plus programmes with extra subjects like Russian language, theatre class.

Task help classes at school.

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3.2.3 *Greydanus College.*

[www.greydanus.nl](http://www.greydanus.nl)



Christian Reformed school.

Education directions:

\*VWO

\*HAVO

\*VMBO TL=MAVO (For explanations terms: page 16 and 18.)

Basic education only during two years: VMBO: BBL, KBL/TL.

Pupils have to go to the town of Zwolle for the rest of the VMBO education to get their diploma.

Extra: Programmes for talented pupils.

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### 3.2.4 RSG. Stad en Esch.

Public school.

[www.stadenesch.nl](http://www.stadenesch.nl)

This school has three locations, of which **two** in the town of Meppel.

#### \*Location Randweg.



stad + esch

#### Education directions:

VMBO.LWOO(=extra supporting education), BBL, GL, KBL, TL. (Explanation terms: page 16)

This school offers:

- Care and wellness.
- Technical science
- Economy
- Extra supporting education.

Education is given on different levels.

Extra: VMBO uses 'tile' classes. This means that pupils in the first two years can switch to another education stream.

**All pupils have their own laptop.** They don't use schoolbooks, but a web based method.

#### \*\*Location Zuideinde.



stad + esch

#### Education directions:

- VMBO TL(MAVO)= junior general secondary education.
- HAVO= senior general secondary education.
- VWO = pre university education.

**Extra: In august of this year all first years pupils will have their own laptop.**

Optimal attention for talent development.

In Meppel there are **two** Special schools for pupils with learning and social behaviour problems. Education is meant for pupils in the age of 12-18.

**3.2.5**            *Rechterenschool.*

[www.rechterenschool.nl](http://www.rechterenschool.nl)



It is focused on pupils with learning problems.

Education training: Pupils get an intensive, personal training on their way to jobs and working and living in the society. There is a cooperation between Stad en Esch (page 18), AOC Terra Green (page 16) and this school. These two schools offer education in bricklaying, electrical engineering and flower arranging, etc.

Age of these pupils: 12-18 years old.

**3.2.6**            *De Ambelt.*

[www.ambelt.nl](http://www.ambelt.nl)

This school is meant for about 60 pupils with behaviour disabilities, psychological problems, and development disorders. The school is part of a larger school in the town of Zwolle.

Location: 'Stad en Esch' Randweg.



Age: 12-20 years old pupils.

Education:

=VMBO-level: pre-vocational secondary education.

=Practical education.

=Extra attention and specialised help is offered for psychotic disorders too.

### 3.3 Senior Secondary Vocational Education.

In Meppel there are **two** schools for MBO(senior secondary vocational education).

Age of the students: About 16- about 20 years old.

MBO (= Senior Secondary Vocational Education.)

#### 3.3.1 *Drenthe College.*

[www.drenthecollege.nl](http://www.drenthecollege.nl)



Drenthe College cooperates with other big schools, situated in the Northern part of the Netherlands. Together they offer 8100 students full-time education.

1500 students get adult education. One subject of the adult educations focuses on the Dutch language, for instance for illiterate people and for those who have to learn Dutch as their second language. This education is given in a building in the centre of Meppel.



Plane tree building in the centre of Meppel.

Drenthe College Meppel counts 800 students.

Drenthe College is a ROC( =Regional Education Centre.)

A large number of **education subject in different levels** are offered.

Headlines:

-- Health and wellness. Four levels.

(Assistant) nurse, education assistant, social worker, etc.

-- Business and commerce. Four levels.

Administrator, assistant accountant, secretary, commercial services, etc.

-- Hotel and catering industry. Four levels. Catering manager, cook, etc.

-- ICT. Three levels.

‘Drenthe College’ and ‘Stad en Esch’- Randweg are working together: They connect studying programmes and try to reduce the drop-out rates. (drop-out prevention.)

3.3.2 *AOC Terra. MBO. Meppel.*

[www.aocterra.nl](http://www.aocterra.nl)



AOC means: Agrarian Regional Education Centre.

AOC Terra Meppel cooperates with several other AOC Terra schools. These schools are situated in the Northern part of the Netherlands.

The new AOC Terra building is beautiful and has got a lot of facilities. A large number of **education subjects (22 !)** in **three different levels** are offered.

Some study directions:

Environment, nature conservation, animal care, agriculture, horticulture, flower and design, sport, recreation, tourism, green retail trade, assistant veterinary surgeon, etc.



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**Education Park Ezinge.**

There are advanced plans to build a large complex of buildings in which several schools will participate. Sporting facilities (sport halls) will be created.

There are possibilities to connect trade and industry, education and labour market.

When plans are realised in the years 2013/2014 **3200 students** can get education at that school campus.

Participating schools now:

Stad en Esch, Rechterenschool, De Ambelt, Drenthe College.



3.4 **College of higher professional education.**

3.4.1 *Stenden University.*

[www.stenden.com](http://www.stenden.com)



Stenden University Meppel is working together with four other Stenden Universities in the Northern part of the Netherlands and cooperates with universities all over the world.

This University of Applied Science is a Teacher Training Institute.

Stenden University offers a training to become a teacher in the primary school on bachelor's degree.

There is a full-time and a short-track programme.

The 'major' is the headline of study.

Students can do the 'International Class' in the third year. This is a 'minor' programme.

The so-called 'Erasmus funding exchange' ('Exchange by letter') stimulates international students to do a foreign practise which lasts about half a year.

The focus lies on cultural diversity and the ways in which education can be practised.

