

The French education system



1. Values chairing the education system

In France, education is governed by several general principles:

- the obligation of the school until the age of 16 years;
- free public service of education during the period of compulsory education;
- secularism.

Compulsory schooling

At three years, the enrollment rate is 97%. Between four and six years, 99% of children are enrolled.

Education can take place in public or private schools under contract.

If children under compulsory school receive instruction in their families or classes outside a private contract, the law provides that the statement must "secure the one hand, the acquisition of the basic tools of knowledge, knowledge of basic elements of general culture, and according to choice, vocational and technical training, and other education enabling him to develop his personality, to raise the level of initial and continuing training, to fit into the social and professional life and exercise their citizenship. "

Free

"Public education taught in nursery schools and infant classes and during the period of

compulsory education (...) is free.

Tuition is free for students in high schools and colleges that give the public secondary education, as well as for students in preparatory classes for schools and higher education public schools of the second degree. '

Secularism

Secularism, constitutional principle of the Republic, is a cornerstone of the public school. At school, as elsewhere, the individual's religious beliefs are a matter of individual conscience and are therefore of freedom.

2. The administrative organization

The central government

- Minister

- Academies:

France is composed of 30 academies and each Minister is represented by a Rector, Chancellor of the Universities.

- Inspections academic

At the departmental level, the rector is represented by a school inspector, Director of Education departmental services.

- Constituencies

For the first stage, departments are divided into districts with one or more municipalities. Inspectors of Education (NIE) are responsible for these constituencies and have jurisdiction over the nursery and elementary schools.

For the second level, departments are divided into districts: each district usually has at least one college, a college of general and technological education, a vocational school and a center for information and guidance (IOC).

In the elementary school, students have an average of 24 hours of class per week (teachers also spend 2 hours per week to personalized assistance to pupils with learning difficulties).

Now, the whole territory is subject to the same school calendar established on 4 days.

In college, students from 25 to 28 hours (sometimes more depending on the third and fourth options)

School in about 30 to 40 hours depending on the options selected). The school year of French primary schools is limited to 144 days, making it one of the shortest in the world.

3. Primary education

The educational organization of kindergartens and elementary schools

Education from kindergarten and elementary school is organized into three cycles:

- Cycle 1 of the "early learning" that takes place in kindergarten;
- Cycle 2 of "basic skills" that starts the major section of kindergarten and continues throughout the first two years of elementary school;

• Cycle 3 of "deepening" that corresponds to the last three years of elementary school and leads the college.

- The school hours: 8.30 - 11.30 am and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

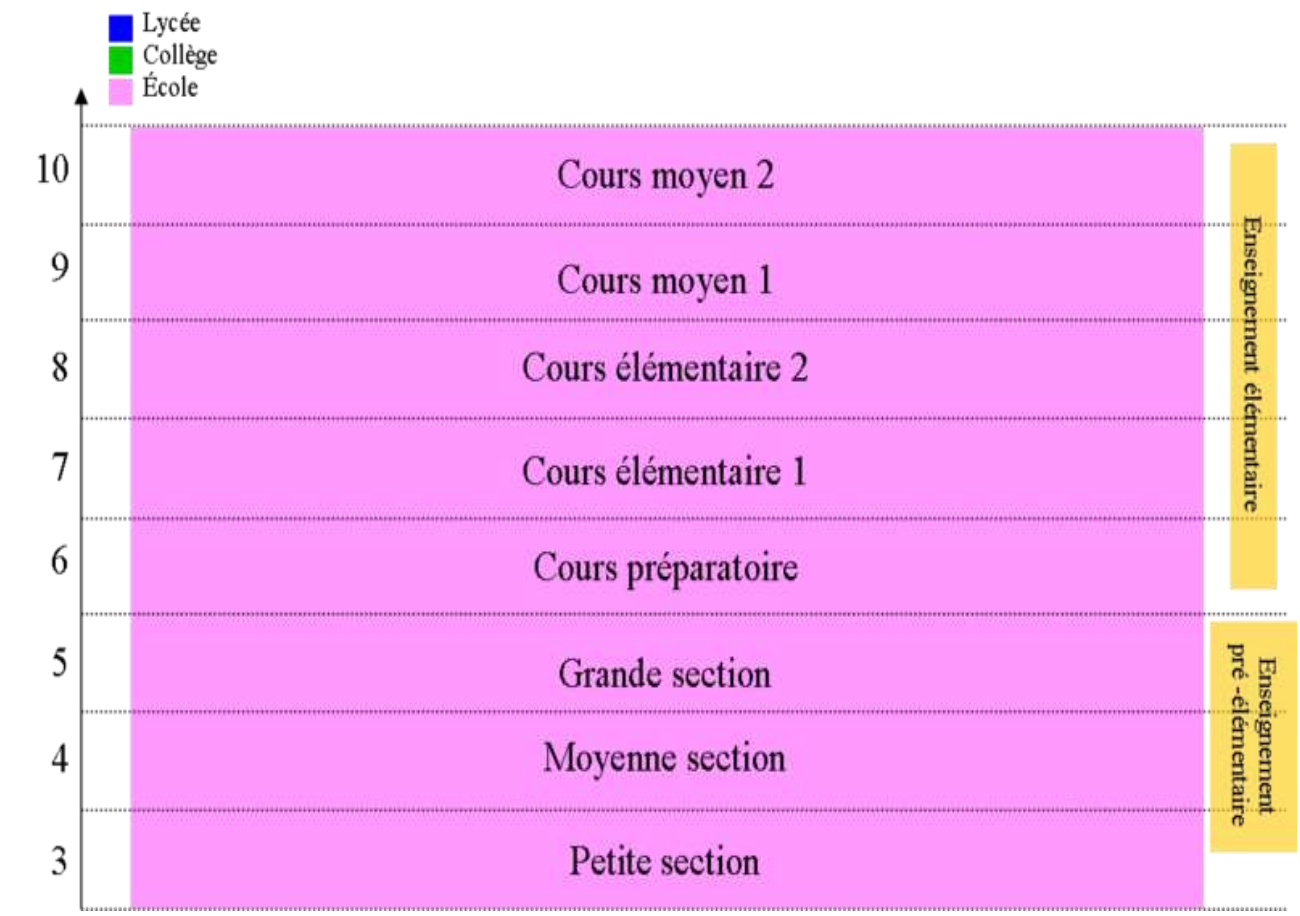
Basic learning cycle

Domaines	Horaire minimum	Horaire maximum
Maîtrise du langage et de la langue française	9 h	10 h
Vivre ensemble	0,5 h	
Mathématiques	5 h	5,5 h
Découvrir le monde	3 h	3,5 h
Langue étrangère ou régionale	1 h	2 h
Lecture et écriture (rédaction ou copie)	2,5 h	

Priority in the first degree is given to the prevention of illiteracy and mastery of writing and reading.

Basic learning cycle

Domaines	Champs disciplinaires	Horaire minimum	Horaire maximum
Langue française Education littéraire et humaine	Littérature (dire,lire, écrire)	4,5 h	5,5 h 2h
	Observation réfléchie de la langue française (grammaire, conjugaison,orthographe, vocabulaire)	1,5 h	
	Langue étrangère ou régionale	1,5 h	
	Histoire et géographie	3h	
	Vie collective (débat réglé)	0,5 h	
Education scientifique	Mathématiques Sciences expérimentales et technologie	5 h 2,5 h	
Education artistique Education musicale	Education musicale Arts visuels	3 h	
Education physique et sportive Domaines transversaux		3 h	
Maîtrise du français et de la langue française Education civique	13h réparties dans tous les champs disciplinaires dont 2h quotidiennes pour des activités de lecture et d'écriture		1 h



4. Secondary education

College

Three cycles college

The educational organization of the college is based on three cycles:

- 6th grade which is the cycle of observation and adaptation to teaching secondary
- Classes of fifth and fourth become the central ring of the college,
- The third class is the orientation cycle.

The patent

The national brevet diploma sanctions the training acquired at the end of the school followed in college or equivalent level classes located in other institutions.

The vocational school

The vocational school is attended mainly by students from 3rd. It allows them to access a level V qualification by obtaining a CAP (certificate of professional competence) or BEP (vocational studies certificate).

After obtaining a BEP or CAP in two years, students can continue their studies in two ways:

- Prepare, in two years, a vocational baccalauréat.
- Prepare, in two years, a technological baccalauréat via 1st class adaptation and a

terminal technology.

Learning

Learning is a preparatory training for all professional qualifications which takes place alternately: paid practical training in business, training theoretical training center for apprentices (CFA).

Level V (CAP, BEP) is a little less than two thirds of young people trained in learning.

High school general education and technological

- The lessons shared in seconds
- The organization of classes and the first terminal
- The three general ways

The first class includes three tracks: literature (L), economic and social (ES) and science.

• The technological pathways

Four rounds are scheduled for technological cycle terminal technology:

- Industrial Science and Technology (ITS);
- Science and Technology Laboratory (STL);
- tertiary science and technology (STG)
- medical and social sciences (SMS).

These four series have the same number of hours in mathematics, French, history, geography, language 1, EPS and philosophy (terminal), plus the teaching schedule of specialty (mechanical engineering, computer science and management, etc.).

The Bachelor

Created in 1808, the first bachelor's degree in higher education and the first degree.

The Bachelor includes compulsory and optional tests.

At the session in 2004, 498,400 young people get a degree, or about 62% of age that is distributed as follows:

- general degree: 32.4%;
- Bachelor of Technology: 17.8%;
- vocational baccalaureate: 11.8%.

The bachelor of general education, general education degree does not lead directly to the exercise of a profession, but can continue their studies at university, preparatory classes for the grandes écoles (CPGE), in higher technical sections (STS) to prepare the technical certificate (BTS) or university institutes of technology (IUT) to prepare the degree of Technology (DUT).

Total selective courses: 49.8%

5. Assessment, orientation, assignment of students

The orientation in the first degree

In each cycle, the progress of a student is determined on a proposal of the Council of primary teachers. Parents should be regularly informed of their child's school situation. To take into account the learning pace of each child, the time spent by a student in all cycles of basic skills and deepening can be extended or reduced by one year.

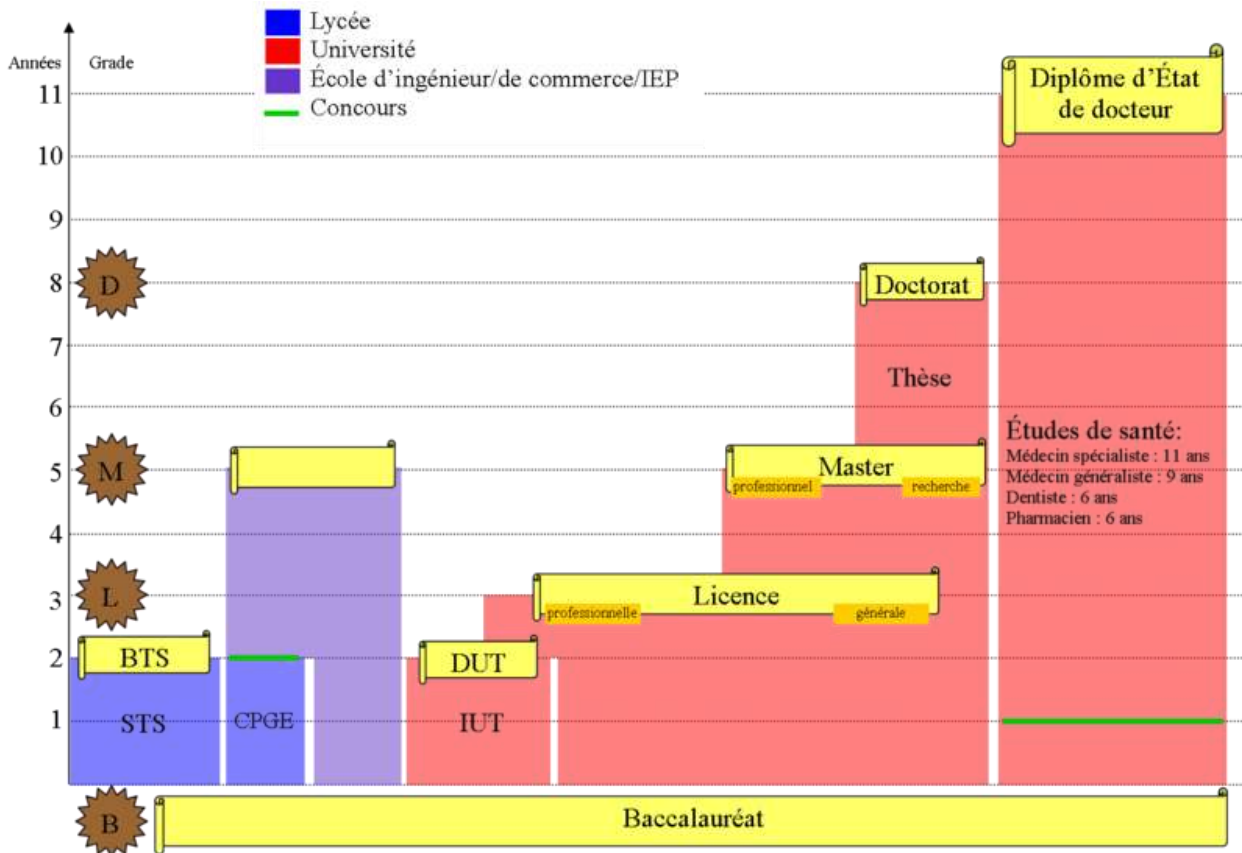
Any student of law CM2 access to college, but contrary proposition board primary teachers.

• At the end of the third

Families emit wishes. The Board proposes the transition class in second grade general and technical or vocational or second passage repetition.

For general way, the orientation assignment is a general and technological.

For the vocational route, the orientation toward work must be completed by the Trust wishes expressed by the family corresponding to different career paths.



The plan Handiscol plans to develop the reception of young people with disabilities in regular classes helped by some auxiliary school life.

UPI

Pedagogical integration units (UPI) are created in some colleges to accommodate preteens or teens 11 to 16 years with various forms of mental disability and who may benefit in mainstream schools, a school suited to their ages and abilities, the nature and extent of their disability.

Repetition

Repetition is massively practiced, then it leads almost always to academic failure.

Teachers

Teachers have a major role in student success. The National Education and affects pays teachers based on seniority. Teachers do not have mandatory continuing education.