

## FRANCE

### Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2017/18

	Dates or periods
<b>Starting date of students' school year</b>	4 September 2017
<b>End of students' school year</b>	7 July 2018
<b>Autumn holidays</b>	2 weeks 21 October – 5 November 2017
<b>Christmas/New Year</b>	2 weeks 23 December 2017 – 7 January 2018
<b>Winter/Carnival</b>	2 weeks 10-25 February 2018 (zone A) 24 February – 11 March 2018 (zone B) 17 February – 4 March 2018 (zone C)
<b>Spring/Easter</b>	2 weeks 7- 22 April 2018 (zone A) 21 April – 6 May 2018 (zone B) 14-29 April 2018 (zone C)
<b>Summer</b>	8 weeks 7 July – 2 September 2018
<b>Public/religious holidays</b>	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 1 November 2017 (All Saints' Day) * 11 November 2017 (1918 Armistice Day) 25 December 2017 (Christmas) * 1 January 2018 (New Year) * 2 April 2018 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2018 (Labour Day) 8 May 2018 (end of WWII in Europe) 10 May 2018 (Ascension Day) 21 May 2018 (Whit Monday) 14 July 2018 (National holiday) * 15 August 2018 (Assumption Day) * * Days already included in 2017/18 school holidays
<b>Starting date of teachers' school year</b>	1 September 2017
<b>End of teachers' school year</b>	7 July 2018

Source: Eurydice.

#### Additional notes

**Zone A:** Besançon, Bordeaux, Clermont-Ferrand, Dijon, Grenoble, Limoges, Lyon, Poitiers

**Zone B:** Aix-Marseille, Amiens, Caen, Lille, Nancy-Metz, Nantes, Nice, Orléans-Tours, Reims, Rennes, Rouen, Strasbourg

**Zone C:** Créteil, Montpellier, Paris, Toulouse, Versailles

## FRANCE (CONTINUED)

	Primary education	General secondary education
<b>Total number of academic/school days</b>	36 weeks (including public/religious holidays) <i>ISCED 1: 162 days (4 or 4.5 days/week)<sup>1</sup></i>	36 weeks (including public/religious holidays) <i>ISCED 24: 162 days (4.5 days/week)<sup>1</sup> ISCED 34: 180 days (5 days/week)<sup>1</sup></i>
<b>Total number of holidays</b>	16 weeks	16 weeks

### Additional notes

<sup>1-</sup> The annual hours of instruction, set by the curriculum for each subject and for each level of education, must be respected regardless of the number of public holidays within a week. **The school year is not set in terms of days but in weeks.** It consists of 36 weeks of work; the public holidays included in the current school year are not deducted. (cf. [Code de l'éducation](#), Article L521-1)

#### Primary education

Instruction time is provided on Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday all day, and on Wednesday morning, with a maximum of 24 hours of instruction per week, 5 1/2 hours maximum per day and 3 1/2 hours maximum per half-day.

As of September 2017, public primary schools will be allowed to choose a different organization of the school week and distribute the 24 hours of weekly instruction over four days (Mon-Tue-Thu-Fri) – instead of four and a half – as long as instruction time does not exceed six hours per day and three and a half hours per half day (<sup>1</sup>). For 2017-2018, 31.8% of schools have chosen a four-day school week, which corresponds to slightly more than a quarter of primary school pupils (28.7%) (<sup>2</sup>).

#### Secondary education

A 4.5-day week (Monday to Friday) is most commonly practiced. At the upper secondary level, students often have school on Saturday morning.

(<sup>1</sup>) Source: Décret n° 2017-1108 du 27 juin 2017 relatif aux dérogations à l'organisation de la semaine scolaire dans les écoles maternelles et élémentaires publiques:  
<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/eli/decret/2017/6/27/MENE1716127D/jo/texte>

(<sup>2</sup>) Cf. Press release (18/07/2017):  
<http://www.education.gouv.fr/cid118949/un-tiers-des-ecoles-a-choisi-d-organiser-la-semaine-scolaire-sur-4-jours-des-la-rentree-2017.html>