

FRANCE

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education – 2018/19

	Dates or periods
Starting date of students' school year	3 September 2018
End of students' school year	6 July 2019
Autumn holidays	2 weeks 21 October – 4 November 2018
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 23 December 2018 – 6 January 2019
Winter/Carnival	2 weeks 17 February – 3 March 2019 (zone A) 10-24 February 2019 (zone B) 24 February – 10 March 2019 (zone C)
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 14-28 April 2019 (zone A) 7-22 April 2019 (zone B) 21 April – 5 May 2019 (zone C)
Additional holiday for 2018/19	31 May and 1 June 2019
Summer	8 weeks 7 July 2019 – 1 September 2019
Public holidays (national/religious holidays)	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 1 November 2018 (All Saints' Day) * 11 November 2018 (1918 Armistice Day) * 25 December 2018 (Christmas) * 1 January 2019 (New Year) * 22 April 2019 (Easter Monday) * 1 May 2019 (Labour Day) ** 8 May 2019 (end of WWII in Europe) 30 May 2019 (Ascension Day) * 14 July 2019 (National holiday) * 15 August 2019 (Assumption Day) * * Days already included in 2018/19 school holidays or weekends ** Day already included in 2018/19 school holidays for zone C
Starting date of teachers' school year	31 August 2018
End of teachers' school year	6 July 2019

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
Total number of academic/school days	36 weeks (including public/religious holidays) <i>ISCED 1: 162 days (4.5 days/week)¹</i>	36 weeks (including public/religious holidays) <i>ISCED 24: 162 days (4.5 days/week)¹</i> <i>ISCED 34: 180 days (5 days/week)¹</i>
Total number of holidays	16 weeks	16 weeks

Additional notes

¹ 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

The school week includes for all students twenty-four hours of instruction, spread over nine half-days.

Instruction time is provided 4,5 days a week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, all day, and on Wednesday morning), with a maximum of 24 hours of instruction per week, 5 1/2 hours of instruction maximum per day and 3 1/2 hours maximum per half-day. Lunchtime break cannot be shorter than one hour and a half.

Since September 2017, by way of derogation (¹) from this general framework, public primary schools have been allowed to set up 3 other types of organization of the school week and distribute the 24 hours of weekly instruction:

- over 4,5 days (Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri, all day, and on Saturday morning, instead of Wednesday morning); or
- over 8 half-days which should include 5 mornings. In this case, extra-curricular activities are gathered together in one afternoon; or
- over 4 days (Mon, Tue, Thurs, 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. Moreover, it is possible to shorten holidays to compensate for the reduced weekly instruction time.

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.

(¹) 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>