FRENCH SCHOOL’S SYSTEM

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_France
The **French educational system** is highly centralized and organized, with many subdivisions.

It is divided into the three stages of
*enseignement primaire* (primary education),
*enseignement secondaire* (secondary education),
*enseignement supérieur* (higher education).

In French higher education, the following degrees are recognized by the **Bologna Process** (EU recognition): *Licence* and *Licence Professionnelle* (bachelor's degrees), and the comparably named *Master* and *Doctorat* degrees.
Lycée Polyvalent Clément Ader Bernay

enseignement primaire

- 3 petite section
- 4 moyenne section
- 5 grande section

enseignement secondaire

- 6 cours préparatoire
- 7 cours élémentaire niveau 1
- 8 cours élémentaire niveau 2
- 9 cours moyen 1
- 10 cours moyen 2

Diplôme national du Brevet

- 11 sixième
- 12 cinquième
- 13 quatrième
- 14 troisième

lycée

enseignement secondaire

- 15 seconde CAP
- 16 seconde BEP
- 17 première professionnelle
- 18 terminale professionnelle

Baccalauréat professionnel

Baccalauréat général

Baccalauréat technologique

École élémentaire

- école maternelle

École primaire
All educational programmes in France are regulated by the Ministry of National Education (officially called Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, de la Jeunesse et de la Vie associative).

The head of the ministry is the Minister of National Education, one of the highest-ranking officials in the cabinet. As of July 2015, the Minister is Najat Vallaud-Belkacem.
The teachers in public primary and secondary schools are all state civil servants, making the ministère the largest employer in the country. Professors and researchers in France's universities are also employed by the state.

At the primary and secondary levels, the curriculum is the same for all French students in any given grade, which includes public, semi-public and subsidised institutions. However, there exist specialised sections and a variety of options that students can choose. The reference for all French educators is the Bulletin officiel de l'éducation nationale, de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche (B.O.) which lists all current programmes and teaching directives. It is amended many times every year.[1]
In the **Metropolitan** territory, the school year extends from early September to early July. The school calendar is standardized throughout the country, and is the sole domain of the ministry.

In May schools need time to organise the exams (for example, the **Baccalauréat**). In the **overseas departments and territories of France**, the school calendar is set by the local **recteur**.

Major holiday breaks are as follows:

- **All Saints** (*la Toussaint*), two weeks (since 2012) around the end of October and the beginning of November;
- **Christmas** (*Noël*), two weeks around **Christmas Day** and **New Year's Day**;
- Winter (**hiver**), two weeks starting in mid February;
- Spring (**printemps**) or **Easter** (**Pâques**), two weeks starting in mid April;
- Summer (**été**), two months starting in early July.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3–4</td>
<td>Petite section</td>
<td>PS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4–5</td>
<td>Moyenne section</td>
<td>MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5–6</td>
<td>Grande section</td>
<td>GS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6–7</td>
<td>Cours préparatoire</td>
<td>CP, 11ème, or 11ᵉ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7–8</td>
<td>Cours élémentaire première année</td>
<td>CE1, 10ème, or 10ᵉ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8–9</td>
<td>Cours élémentaire deuxième année</td>
<td>CE2, 9ème, or 9ᵉ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9–10</td>
<td>Cours moyen première année</td>
<td>CM1, 8ème, or 8ᵉ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–11</td>
<td>Cours moyen deuxième année</td>
<td>CM2, 7ème, or 7ᵉ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11–12</td>
<td>Sixième</td>
<td>6ᵉ or 6ᵉ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–13</td>
<td>Cinquième</td>
<td>5ᵉ or 5ᵉ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13–14</td>
<td>Quatrième</td>
<td>4ᵉ or 4ᵉ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14–15</td>
<td>Troisième</td>
<td>3ᵉ or 3ᵉ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15–16</td>
<td>Seconde</td>
<td>2ᵈᵉ or 2ᵈᵉ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16–17</td>
<td>Première</td>
<td>1ʳᵉ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17–18</td>
<td>Terminale</td>
<td>Term</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
After kindergarten, the young students move on to primary school. It is in the first year that they will learn to write and develop their reading skills. Much akin to other educational systems, French primary school students usually have a single teacher (or perhaps two) who teaches the complete curriculum, such as French, mathematics, science and humanities to name a few. Note that the French word for a teacher at the primary school level is maître or its feminine form maîtresse (previously called instituteur, or its feminine form institutrice).
Middle school and high school

Further information: [Secondary education in France](#)

After primary school, two educational stages follow:

- **collèges** *(middle school)*, which cater for the first four years of secondary education from the ages of 11 to 15
- **lycées** *(high school)*, which provide a three-year course of further secondary education for children between the ages of 15 and 18. Pupils are prepared for the **baccalauréat** *(baccalaureate, colloquially known as *le bac)*. The **baccalauréat** can lead to higher education studies or directly to professional life.
Higher education in France is organized in three levels or grades which correspond to those of other European countries, facilitating international mobility: the Licence and Licence Professionnelle (bachelor's degrees), and the Master's and Doctorat degrees.

The Licence and the Master are organized in semesters: 6 for the Licence and 4 for the Master. These levels of study include various "parcours" or paths based on UE (Unités d’Enseignement or Modules), each worth a defined number of European credits (ECTS); a student accumulates these credits, which are generally transferable between paths.

A Licence is awarded once 180 ECTS have been obtained; a Master is awarded once 120 additional credits have been obtained.

Licence and master's degrees are offered within specific domaines and carry a specific mention. Spécialités which are either research-oriented or professionally oriented during the second year of the Master. There are also Professional Licences whose objective is immediate job integration. It is possible to later return to school through continuing education or to validate professional experience (through VAE, Validation des Acquis de l’Expérience[7]).

Higher education in France is divided between grandes écoles and public universities. Grandes écoles admit the graduates of the level Baccalauréat + 2 years of validated study (or sometimes directly after the Baccalauréat) whereas universities admit all graduates of the Baccalauréat.
Religion
Religious instruction is not given by public schools (except for 6- to 18-year-old students in Alsace-Lorraine under the Concordat of 1801). Laïcité (secularism) is one of the main precepts of the French republic.

In a March 2004 ruling, the French government banned all "conspicuous religious symbols" from schools and other public institutions with the intent of preventing proselytisation and to foster a sense of tolerance among ethnic groups. Some religious groups showed their opposition, saying the law hindered the freedom of religion as protected by the French constitution.