

# FRANCE

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## Overview

The French education system is highly centralized and is organized with many subdivisions. Education is free and mandatory in France from ages 6 to 16 but most kids start school before the minimum age, and often as young as 2 years old. There is an additional two years of study, if students want to write the baccalaureate exam which they must pass to enter university.

All professors in public schools and universities are employed and paid by the state. The Ministry of Education is by far, the largest employer in France.

Over 80% of all school pupils are in public schools. Private schools in France are about 90% Catholic schools with religious instruction in the curriculum in addition to the state mandated curriculum that they must follow in order to stay under contract with the state education system, which means that the state would pay their teachers. Additionally private schools in France charge only a small symbolic fee which means they are accessible to anyone. There are also a few fee-paying public schools, these are boarding schools.

International schools in France are usually independent schools and so will have a different curriculum, and teachers will not be paid by the government. These usually cost more.

It is divided into three stages

1. Primary Education
  - a. 5 classes of grade school (from ages 6-11) numeracy and literacy
  - b. French, arithmetic, geography, history the arts and more, sometimes a foreign language (English)
2. Secondary Education
  - a. College: this is four levels of middle school (ages 11-15) includes PE civics, science technical education
  - b. Lycee: three years after college, and it extends beyond the role of traditional high school
    - i. lycee general: High school and preparation for baccalaureat
    - ii. lycee professionnel: vocational high school with non-academic syllabus
    - iii. lycee technique: students begin to specialize in a technical field in addition to general secondary studies.
3. Higher Education
  - a. Lycee: the best and biggest Lycees have two more years of classes which are comparable to the first two years of Higher Education
  - b. Universite: award three types of degrees; Licence, Masters and Doctorate
  - c. Grandes ecole: highly competitive small institutions.

### *Opportunities*

Teachers and Guidance

Researchers

Administrative and Health Personnel

Disability Specialists

Personal Coaching

Life-long Learning Coach

Special Education Services

Online Education Service

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

### ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

MINISTER OF EDUCATION

#### *Cabinet of the Minister*

- Director of the Cabinet
- Deputy Directors
- Special Adviser
- Adviser to the Minister
- Cabinet Chief
- Advisers

### HOW TO APPLY

On the Ministry of Education website:

[www.education.gouv.fr/pid3691/le-recrutement-a-l-educationnationale.html](http://www.education.gouv.fr/pid3691/le-recrutement-a-l-educationnationale.html)