

*SHORT DESCRIPTION  
OF THE  
FRENCH EDUCATIONNAL SYSTEM*

**ECOLE ELEMENTAIRE THERESE ROMEO 2, NICE, FRANCE**

*JELGAVA, LATVIA / OCTOBRE 2011*

***FROM AN HISTORICAL POINT OF VIEW ...***

| <b><i>DATES</i></b> | <b><i>LAW</i></b>  | <b><i>SUBJECT</i></b>  |
|---------------------|--|--|
| <b>1789</b>         | <b>Great importance of the FRENCH REVOLUTION of 1789</b> |  |
| <b>1833</b>         | <b>GUIZOT's Law</b>                                      | <b>Creation in each town of a primary school for BOYS</b>  |
| <b>1850</b>         | <b>FALLOUX's Law</b>                                     | <b>Creation in each town of a primary school for GIRLS</b>                                       |
| <b>1881 - 1882</b>  | <b>FERRY's Law</b>                                       | <b>Primary Schools have to be PUBLIC, LAIC, FREE OF CHARGE and COMPULSORY for boys and girls</b> |
| <b>2004</b>         | <b>National law about the concept of "Laicité"</b>       |  |
| <b>2005</b>         | <b>National law about the disabled children</b>          |  |

| <i>AGE</i> | <i>GRADE</i> | <i>CLASS NAME</i>                    | <i>CYCLE NAME</i>                                 | <i>ESTABLISHMENT</i>         |   |
|------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|
| 2 – 3      | 1            | Toute Petite Section<br>TPS          | Cycle I<br>des<br>apprentissages<br>premiers      | <i>Maternal<br/>school</i>   | <i>Primary<br/>Schools<br/><br/>which includes both<br/>Maternal and<br/>Elementary schools</i> |
| 3 – 4      | 2            | Petite Section<br>(PS)               |   |                              |   |
| 4 – 5      | 3            | Moyenne Section<br>MS                |   |                              |   |
| 5 – 6      | 4            | Grande Section<br>GS                 | Cycle II<br>des<br>apprentissages<br>fondamentaux | <i>Elementary<br/>school</i> |   |
| 6 – 7      | 5            | Cours Préparatoire<br>CP             |   |                              |   |
| 7 – 8      | 6            | Cours Élémentaire 1 ère année<br>CE1 |   |                              |   |
| 8 – 9      | 7            | Cours Élémentaire 2 ème année<br>CE2 | Cycle III<br>des<br>Approfondissements            | <i>Elementary<br/>school</i> |   |
| 9 – 10     | 8            | Cours Moyen 1 ère année<br>CM1       |   |                              |   |
| 10 – 11    | 9            | Cours Moyen 2 ème année<br>CM2       |   |                              |   |

| <i>AGE</i> | <i>GRADE</i> | <i>CLASS NAME</i>       | <i>CYCLE NAME</i>              | <i>ESTABLISHMENT</i>  |   |
|------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|
| 11 – 12    | 10           | « Classe de Sixième »   | « Cycle IV d'adaptation »      | <b>« Collège »</b><br><i>Pre-Secondary school</i>                 |   |
| 12 – 13    | 11           | « Classe de Cinquième » | « Cycle V central »            |   |   |
| 13 – 14    | 12           | « Classe de Quatrième » |                                | <b>« Collège Général »</b><br><i>General pre-secondary school</i> | <b>« Collège Technique »</b><br><i>Technical pre-secondary school</i> |
| 14 – 15    | 13           | « Classe de Troisième » |                                |   |   |
| 15 – 16    | 14           | « Classe de Seconde »   | « Cycle VII de détermination » | <b>« Lycée Général »</b><br><i>General secondary school</i>       | <b>« Lycée Technique »</b><br><i>Technical secondary school</i>       |
| 16 – 17    | 15           | « Classe de Première »  | « Cycle VIII terminal »        |   |   |
| 17 – 18    | 16           | « Classe de Terminale » |                                |   |   |

# **Socle Commun de Connaissances et de Compétences (S3C)**

## **Common basement of knowledge and skills**

### **The 7 Competences**

1. Improvement of the French language;
2. Practice of a foreign language;
3. Main elements of mathematics and culture science and technology;
4. Control usual techniques of information and communication;
5. Humanistic culture;
6. Social and civic skills
7. Autonomy and entrepreneurial.

### **Curricula**

Curricula based on the « Common basement of knowledge and skills »

### **Evaluation**

3 levels of evaluation

| <i>AGE</i> | <i>CLASS NAME</i>                       | <i>SCHOOL</i>                                    | <i>NATIONAL EVALUATIONS</i>   |
|------------|---|--|---|
| 2 – 3      | « Toute Petite Section - TPS »          | <i>Maternal School</i><br><br><i>(4 years)</i>   |   |
| 3 – 4      | « Petite Section (PS) »                 |  |   |
| 4 – 5      | « Moyenne Section - MS »                |  |   |
| 5 – 6      | « Grande Section - GS »                 |  |   |
| 6 – 7      | « Cours Préparatoire - CP »             | <i>Elementary School</i><br><br><i>(5 years)</i> | <b>National Evaluation in CE1</b>   |
| 7 – 8      | « Cours Élémentaire 1 ère année - CE1 » |  |   |
| 8 – 9      | « Cours Élémentaire 2 ème année - CE2 » |  |   |
| 9 – 10     | « Cours Moyen 1 ère année - CM1 »       |  |   |
| 10 – 11    | « Cours Moyen 2 ème année - CM2 »       |  | <b>National Evaluation in CM2</b>   |
| 11 – 12    | « Classe de Sixième »                   | « Collège »<br><br><i>(4 years)</i>              | <b>National Evaluation for 14 - 15<br/>DNB : Diplôme National du Brevet</b>   |
| 12 – 13    | « Classe de Cinquième »                 |  |   |
| 13 – 14    | « Classe de Quatrième »                 |  |   |
| 14 – 15    | « Classe de Troisième »                 |  |   |
| 15 – 16    | « Classe de Seconde »                   | « Lycée »<br><br><i>(3 years)</i>                | 2 steps procedure :<br><b>National Evaluation<br/>Baccalauréat (1/2) for 16 - 17<br/>Baccalauréat (2/2) for 17 - 18</b> |
| 16 – 17    | « Classe de Première »                  |  |   |
| 17 – 18    | « Classe de Terminale »                 |  |   |

| <b>AGE</b> | <b>SCHOOL</b>                                  | <b>GENERAL INFORMATIONS</b>   |   |
|------------|--|---|---|
| 2 – 3      | <b>Maternal School</b><br><br><i>(4 years)</i> | <p>⇒ <b>24 hours per week for student (+ 2 optional hours)</b></p> <p>⇒ <b>4 days a week (Monday ; Tuesday ; Thursday ; Friday) 8.30 to 11.30 and 13.30 to 16.30</b></p> <p>⇒ <b>Lunch break : from 11.30 to 13.30 Lunch at home or at the canteen</b></p> <p>⇒ <b>27 hours per week for teachers</b></p> | <p><b>1 teacher and 1 assistant for all disciplines</b></p> <p><b>1 assistant for each disabled student</b></p> <p><b>26 students per class</b></p> <p>39 weeks of school per year</p> <p>200 pupils on average per maternal school</p> |
| 3 – 4      |  |   |   |
| 4 – 5      |  |   |   |
| 5 – 6      |  |   |   |
| 6 – 7      |  |   |   |
| 7 – 8      |  |   |   |
| 8 – 9      |  |   |   |
| 9 – 10     |  |   |   |
| 10 – 11    |  |   |   |

| <i>AGE</i> | <i>SCHOOL</i>                   | <i>GENERAL INFORMATION</i>  |   |  |
|------------|---------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 11 – 12    | « Collège »<br><i>(4 years)</i> | ⇒ <b>25 hours per week for student<br/>( + 3 optional hours)</b><br>⇒ <b>5 days a week<br/>(Monday ; ... ; Friday)</b><br><b>8.00 to 12.00 and 14.00 to 17.00</b><br>⇒ 18 hours per week for teachers | <b>1 different teacher for each discipline</b><br><b>30 students per class on average</b><br>39 weeks of school per year<br>2 000 students on average per college |  |
| 12 – 13    |                                 |   |   |  |
| 13 – 14    |                                 |   |   |  |
| 14 – 15    |                                 |   |   |  |
| 15 – 16    | « Lycée »<br><i>(3 years)</i>   | ⇒ <b>32 hours per week for student<br/>( + 3 optional hours)</b><br>⇒ <b>5 days a week<br/>(Monday ; ... ; Friday)</b><br>⇒ 18 hours per week for teachers  | <b>1 different teacher for each discipline</b><br><b>35 students in class on average</b><br>39 weeks of school per year<br>1 500 student on average per lycée     |  |
| 16 – 17    |                                 |   |   |  |
| 17 – 18    |                                 |   |   |  |



| <b><i>SCHOOL</i></b>   | <b><i>SPECIFICITIES ABOUT TEACHERS ...</i></b>   |
|--|--|
| <p><i>Maternal School</i><br/>+<br/><i>Elementary School</i></p> | <p><b>National exam to become “PROFESSEUR DES ECOLES”</b><br/> <b>Notion of “Fonctionnaire” of the French State</b><br/> Level : Master 2<br/> Location : Region<br/> <b>Free mobility into France by computation of points mainly based on the number of experience’s years as teacher - Nomination by points not by the hierarchy</b></p>      |
| <p>« Collège »<br/>+<br/>« Lycée »</p>                           | <p>National exam to become “PROFESSEUR DES COLLEGES ET LYCEES”<br/> <b>Notion of “Fonctionnaire” of the French State</b><br/> Level : Master 2<br/> Location : France<br/> <b>Free mobility into France by computation of points mainly based on the number of experience’s years as teacher - Nomination by points not by the hierarchy</b></p> |

| <i>AGE</i> | <i>SCHOOL</i>            | <i>CURRICULA</i>  |
|------------|--------------------------|---|
| 2 – 6      | <i>Maternal school</i>   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>CYCLE I</i></b><br/> (24 hours + 2 hours for Personal Help)<br/> Appropriate language – find writing ; Become a student ; Act and speak with his body ;<br/> Discover the world ; Perceive, sense, imagine, create</p>   |
| 6 – 11     | <i>Elementary School</i> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>CYCLE II</i></b><br/> (24 hours + 2 hours for Personal Help)<br/> French : 10h ; <b>Mathematics : 5h</b> ; History – Geography – Civic Education : 2h15 ;<br/> Arts : 2h15 ; Sports : 3 h ; Foreign language : 1h30 : Sciences : 4 h ; Personal Help : 2 h</p> |
|            |                          | <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>CYCLE III</i></b><br/> (24 hours + 2 hours for Personal Help)<br/> French : 8h ; <b>Mathematics : 5h</b> ; History – Geography – Civic Education : 2h ; Arts :<br/> 2h ; Sports : 3h ; Foreign language : 2h30 : Sciences : 2h30 ; Personal Help : 2h</p>      |

| <i>AGE</i> | <i>SCHOOL</i> | <i>CURRICULUM</i>   |                |                 |
|------------|---------------|---|----------------|-----------------|
| 11 – 15    | « Collège »   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>CYCLES IV, V and VI</i></b><br/>           French : 5h ; <b>Mathematics : 4h</b> ;<br/>           History – Geography – Civic Education : 3h ;<br/>           Arts : 2h ; Sports : 4h ; Foreign language : 4h ;<br/>           Sciences : 4h ; Personal Help : 1h</p>  |                |                 |
| 15 – 18    | « Lycée »     | <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>CYCLES VII and VIII</i></b><br/>           French : 4h ; <b>Mathematics : 4h</b> ;<br/>           History – Geography – Education : 4h ;<br/>           Sports : 2h ; First Foreign language : 4h ; Second foreign language : 3h ;<br/>           Sciences : 6h ; Personal Help : 2h ;<br/>           Economy : 1,5h ; Scientific methods : 1,5h</p> |                |                 |
|            |               | +++<br>Language   | +++<br>Economy | +++<br>Sciences |

| <i>SCHOOL</i>            | <i>HIERARCHY</i>   |
|--------------------------|--|
| <i>Maternal school</i>   | <p>1 Chancellor (the same for all)</p> <p>1 Inspector of Académie (the same for all maternal and elementary schools)</p> <p><b>1 Inspector of National Primary Education in charge of 20 elementary schools</b></p> <p><i>Inside the school :</i></p> <p>1 Head teacher for each maternal school</p> <p>Several teachers</p>   |
| <i>Elementary School</i> | <p>1 Chancellor (the same for all)</p> <p>1 Inspector of Académie (the same for all maternal and elementary schools)</p> <p><b>1 Inspector of National Primary Education in charge of 20 elementary schools</b></p> <p><i>Inside the school :</i></p> <p>1 Head teacher for each elementary school</p> <p>Several teachers</p> |
| Collège                  | <p>1 Chancellor (the same for all)</p> <p>Several Inspectors of National Secondary Education</p> <p><i>Inside the school :</i></p> <p><b>1 Headmaster (named Principal) and 1 vice-Headmaster (Principal adjoint)</b></p> <p>Several teachers</p>  |
| Lycée                    | <p>1 Chancellor (the same for all)</p> <p>Several Inspectors of National Secondary Education</p> <p><i>Inside the school :</i></p> <p><b>1 Headmaster (named Proviseur) and 1 vice-Headmaster (Proviseur adjoint)</b></p> <p>Several teachers</p>  |