French education
ABROAD
2020
AEFE

OBJECTIVES

1. ENSURING THE CONTINUITY OF THE FRENCH PUBLIC EDUCATION SERVICE
   - A network of high-standard schools
   - Supporting French companies worldwide

2. EDUCATION OF FOREIGN STUDENTS
   - from Host Countries or other Foreign Countries
   - Promoting the French Language and culture

3. COOPERATION BETWEEN SCHOOLS
   - French and Foreign Institutions

EDUCATIONAL DIPLOMACY
The Agency for French Education Abroad (AEFE) is an institution supervised by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. It coordinates and supports nearly 522 schools in 139 countries.

The AEFE network welcomes 370,000 pupils and students and guarantees them access to education excellence all over the world. 60% of them are foreigners. The network of French high schools abroad is unique, both in terms of density and unity. This is evidenced by the accreditation awarded to schools and verified by the French Ministry of Education and Youth. The Agency is one of the key entities involved in supporting French international initiatives.

The AEFE is committed to providing public educational services for French families living abroad as well as promoting the French language, culture and values defining French education. This is the reason why we welcome students and pupils of all nationalities.

To comply with these choices, the Agency has developed an innovative educational policy dedicated to implementing the programmes of the French Ministry of National Education and Youth while remaining open to the languages and cultures of the Host countries.

By enrolling your children in an accredited French Institution, you are opting for educational excellence offered to every individual. You are choosing cultural openness and a multilingual learning environment that fosters independence, reflection, social commitment, community spirit and a sense of citizenship. This model is designed to adapt to the local populations and settings, in compliance with the national regulations of the countries partnering with French diplomatic offices.

The major reforms of the French Ministry of National Education and Youth also concern the senior high school level. Indeed, the reform dealing with the new Baccalaureate (high school diploma) is fully implemented to ensure that families and students be provided with high-quality education perfectly aligned with the French curricula. Management staff, tenured staff seconded from the Ministry of Education and locally recruited staff are all involved in these projects.

The excellent examination results regarding both the General Certificate of Secondary Education (Diplôme National du Brevet) and the General Certificate of Education - Advanced Level (Baccalaureate) are very good indicators of the quality of the education provided. And the outstanding number of former senior high-school students who attend the best “Grandes Écoles” and universities in France and abroad are the best illustration of such success.

The French Education Abroad Agency also delivers quality label certifications known as “LabelFrancÉducation” seals of approval to high-quality foreign schools with national programs that contribute to the development of the French language and culture. Additionally, our education network supports FLAM extracurricular initiatives in French (as Mother Tongue) or “Français Langue Maternelle”. These systems reflect the numerous demands for French language education around the world.

The Agency works with a large network of partners who constitute a true academic community: parents, former pupils, elected representatives of French citizens living abroad, staff representatives, partners of French and foreign sporting, educational or media institutions. Our community is deeply involved in the academic achievement of our students.

I therefore encourage you to discover this highly successful educational initiative supported by its dedicated members in the following pages.

Olivier BROCHET,
Director of the AEFE
Supervising and SUPPORTING the schools of the network.

RECRUITING, APPOINTING, REMUNERATING the teaching coordination, inspection and supervisory staff, who are civil servants for the French Ministry of Education.

ASSESSING teachers and their teaching methods, as well as other staff members.

Managing and supervising CONTINUOUS TRAINING of staff.

Providing BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL management when public budgetary and accounting management (GBCP) matches the Agency’s strategic guidelines.

Allocating SUBSIDIES to schools for operations, investment, equipment and educational support.

Strengthening expertise through GOVERNANCE and guidance.

Initiating PROPERTY PROJECTS through five-year programmes approved by the Inter-ministerial Commission for State Property Operations Abroad (CIME).

Granting income-based SCHOLARSHIPS to French students in the network’s schools.

Accompanying students in the construction of their ACADEMIC PATH into higher education.

Providing GRANTS OF EXCELLENCE to the best foreign students seeking to pursue their higher education in France.

Working with cultural services departments (SCAC) and the DIPLOMATIC POSTS to ensure the promotion of French education, culture and language.

Bringing together the actors and PARTNERS of the network.

Assisting PROJECT PROMOTERS for partnership with new schools.
The State’s contribution to financing the French education network abroad is based on the allocation by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of two grants for France’s initiatives abroad, referred to as “Action Extérieure de la France”:

- The “diplomatie culturelle et d’influence” (cultural diplomacy and influence) initiative of the programme 185: 404.5 million euros to finance the activity of institutions to finance the activity of schools excluding security budget.
- The “Français à l’étranger” (French overseas) initiative of programme 151: 101.5 million euros to finance scholarships.

AEFE’s budget is structured around 3 main areas:

- EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE;
- SUPPORT OF THE NETWORK;
- MODERNIZATION OF THE NETWORK.

The budget is planned on a multi-annual basis to better integrate the Property investment strategy, to anticipate employment needs, to sustain the Agency’s plans, and to provide the families with clear overview.

**Management Control**
Management control optimizes the effectiveness, efficiency and service quality offered by a school. It ensures the balance between objectives, resources and results achieved through a limited budget.

**Public Sector Orders**
Since the 1st of September 2016, a new approach to public procurement has been implemented to optimize the Agency’s resources. In 2018, all central offices and EGD’s were trained in procurement procedures.
THE NETWORK

THE SCHOOLS

71
Institutions in DIRECT MANAGEMENT
Decentralized services of the Agency

156
Institutions APPROVED and managed by associations or foundations

295
PARTNER Institutions

ACREDITATION
Issued by the Ministry of National Education, accreditation certifies that a school complies with the requirements, programmes, educational objectives and organisational rules of the French education system. It allows any pupil/student from an accredited school to pursue his or her studies in any other French institution without having to sit an admission exam.

Schools are required to provide proof that they comply with the accreditation criteria on a regular basis, about their involvement in welcoming French and foreign children, in preparing pupils/students for French examinations and diplomas, in ensuring high-standard teaching level with qualified staff, etc.

THE GENERAL BUDGET
As regards schools operated by the AEFE, the general budget is based on the principle of co-funding: tuition fees on the one hand, and subsidies allocated by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs on the other. France is the only country that has chosen to set up such a large-scale education system abroad, and it receives significant government funding.

THE POOLING OF RESOURCES
The network of French schools abroad is organised into 16 pooling zones. Pooling resources allows the network to develop within an institutional framework in which service provision, the decentralisation of resources, and the Agency’s strategic plans can be implemented with great care.

Alexandre-Yersin french school, Hanoi, Viet Nam
©AEFE
THE STAFF

ONGOING TRAINING
The AEFE conducts an ambitious continuous professional development policy for staff across the network, notably towards locally recruited staff. Such policy is essential to ensure quality education and to secure the influence of the institutions in the countries they are based.

The 16 pooling zones of the network partner with Regional Authorities in France. In each zone, a continuous professional development plan is designed according to the staff’s specific needs, and is assessed by the Agency’s educational department.

MONITORING OF TEACHING STAFF
It is conducted by 10 Regional Education Authority Inspectors (IA-IPR) for secondary education. 17 inspectors from the French Ministry of Education (IEN) for primary education are based in the different zones under the coordination of the Agency’s inspector.

In addition to the inspections they are required to perform, their work is mainly divided into four main areas:
• Organising training courses as part of staff development plans;
• Managing expert trainers for primary and secondary education;
• Coordinating the teams of expatriate teacher-trainers at primary level (EMFE) and secondary level (EEMCP2), who are responsible for supporting and providing guidance to resident teachers and those recruited on local contracts.
• Meeting the disciplinary teams during schools inspections.

EMPLOYEE DIALOGUE
Expatriate, resident and locally recruited staff based in the network’s directly managed institutions (EGD) and the staff based at the AEFE head office are represented by elected members of the trade unions for each advisory body.

THE NETWORK

6 052 PERMANENT STAFF
seconded to the AEFE:
909 expatriates
5 143 Residents

30 000 STAFF UNDER LOCAL LAW CONTRACTS

TRAINING
Training courses are offered to newly recruited staff, staff subject to local law contracts, primary or secondary school teachers. They focus on keeping up to date on subject knowledge, resource choices and classroom management.

Victor-Hugo french school, Marrakech, Morocco ©AEFE
Over 70 languages taught

122 000 French pupils
370 000 pupils
248 000 foreign pupils

EDUCATION THAT IS

• MULTILINGUAL

Guaranteeing EXCELLENT TEACHING AND PROFICIENCY OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE through innovative methods suited to the specific needs of each group of learners.

Teaching THE LANGUAGE OF THE HOST COUNTRIES to French and foreign pupils.

Promoting MULTILINGUALISM in an international environment.

Offering INTENSIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING throughout the pupils’ academic path.

The PARLE programmes (tailored and reinforced programmes in foreign languages) developed by the AEFE aim to enhance the quality of language instruction for pupils and students and to strengthen their command of a modern foreign language other than the host country’s language. They can include Arabic, Chinese, English, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese.
SCHOOLS DEDICATED TO

• CITIZENSHIP
Empowering pupils to become RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS in accordance with the principles of Republican and Democratic Citizenship.

• INCLUSIVE EDUCATION
Providing appropriate solutions to the specific educational needs of pupils.

Supporting schools and their teams to ADJUST THE CURRICULUM and develop personal learning paths.

Building a school THAT WORKS FOR THE SUCCESS of all the pupils.

BACCALAUREATE 2019

97.2 % success rate
26.7 % with distinction
100 % digitally corrected copies

THE ADN-AEFE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

This is an AEFE student exchange programme. It allows students in their first year at senior high school (seconde), either in a French school abroad or in France to study for several weeks in different French schools abroad. Since it was launched in 2017, the number of French lycées involved in this programme around the world has increased from 15 to nearly 110. The students, on a voluntary basis, are immersed in another linguistic and cultural environment, sharing French as a common language, while continuing to follow their school curriculum.

THE NETWORK

PUPILS AND STUDENTS

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THE MONITORING BODY FOR PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

In 2016, the AEFE created a monitoring body dedicated to pupils with special educational needs. This body brings together elected representatives coming from the General Inspection of the French Ministry of Education, from the French Mission Laïque, Students’ Parents’ Associations, from the French expatriates’ organisations, and from schools staff. Its objective is twofold: to promote the sharing of excellent practices in French schools abroad and to improve the schooling of pupils with special educational needs.

BOOSTING DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS

The use of digital services and tools makes it possible to strengthen synergies within the network, through collaborative platforms and exchanges on the theme of guidance between high school students and former students (AGORA-WORLD), through the creation of a network of Web radios or via Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) to facilitate the arrival of students in France, etc.
EXCELLENCE-MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS (BEM)

This programme, run by the AEFE who has entrusted its administrative management to Campus France, supports 860 foreign students during five years of study in France in various fields of excellence. Once chosen by a committee of experts, the new scholars are given a personalised welcome and guidance from the AEFE’s Guidance and Higher Education Department. This programme, which was launched in 1992, is proving to be increasingly successful. It plays a major role in the appeal of French higher education among foreign students and contributes to France’s influential diplomacy.

THE WORLDWIDE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS (UNION-ALFM)

Founded in 2010, the Association of French High School Alumni Worldwide, “Association des Anciens des lycées français du monde”, now Union-ALFM, brings together more than 80 local associations with the main objective of enhancing, both in France and abroad, the bonds of friendship and solidarity between the alumni. It plays a major role in the creation and development of local associations. The Union-ALFM association actively participates in events organised by the AEFE (welcoming and graduation ceremonies for BEM, FOMA, etc.).
AGORA-MONDE

The AGORA-MONDE website is an online tool for collaboration between current and young former high school students, enabling them to share experiences on issues related to post-baccalaureate studies and student life. This helps cement their participation in the global network run by the AEFE and create an active network of mutual assistance and guidance for all those who have or have had access to the French education system abroad.

AGORA-Monde is the support platform for the ADN-AEFE student exchange program, which enables high school students to spend part of the year studying at another school in another country.

THE ALFM.FR PLATFORM

The ALFM.FR platform is a social, associative and professional network for all former students, regardless of their age or the duration of their schooling in a French high school across the world. It is a platform that allows people to find other former students thanks to a location-based directory, to make personal projects known, to organise events, to run the association network but also to find or post an internship or job offer. The platform is provided by the AEFE and run in collaboration with the world association ALFM and local associations.

THE NETWORK

FORMER PUPILS AND STUDENTS

7 700 MEMBERS

L’avenir en réseau !

50 000 MEMBERS

agora-aefe.fr
Created in 2012, the LabelFrancÉducation label is awarded by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) to French-speaking bilingual schools that offer intensive French language instruction and classes held in French in at least one non-language subject, in accordance with the host country’s school programmes.

The AEFE is responsible for the operational management of the certified network, in accordance with the strategic guidelines defined by the MEAE.

Membership of the LabelFrancÉducation network helps to make bilingual programmes more attractive by addressing the dual requirement of excellence and open-mindedness for students.

The AEFE also guarantees the availability of numerous educational resources and services from various partners (Institut français, CIEP-France Education International, TV5Monde, etc.).

The FLAM (French as a native language) programme was created in 2001 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, initiated by elected representatives representing French expatriates living abroad. The financial support scheme for FLAM associations was entrusted to the AEFE in 2009.

Its purpose is to support extracurricular initiatives aimed at promoting the use of the French language among French or binational children educated in a language other than French.

Associations can thus benefit from grants to support their activities during their first years of operation, grants for the organisation of regional groups, as well as annual training sessions in France for their members.
Mission Laïque Française, a long-standing associative organisation for French education abroad, is at the head of a network of 109 schools that follow the French curriculum, 94 of which are accredited, in 38 countries. The Mlfmonde network thus represents more than 60,000 students enrolled from nursery school to high school. Created in 1902, the MLF has been officially declared a non-profit organisation since 1907.

Mission Laïque Française is affiliated with the State through two agreements, one with the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) and one with the Ministry of National Education (MEN). It fully reflects the main lines of France’s foreign strategy and, alongside the AEFE -with whom it has signed a memorandum of understanding, follows the directives of the Ministry of National Education with regard to the conformity of the programmes of accredited educational institutions.

In addition to representing staff in the official bodies of French institutions abroad and the AEFE, staff representatives participate in themed working groups on various topics related to French education abroad.

The aim is to achieve constructive dialogue between departments, institutions and trade unions, producing notes and memorenda to ensure the proper functioning of all departments.

Trade unions participate in advisory committees at local and central levels.

Staff representatives also participate in the activities of the monitoring body (observatoire) for pupils with special educational needs.
The AEFE develops and maintains ongoing dialogue with the elected representatives of French citizens living abroad.

**PARLIAMENTARIANS**

Two deputies and two senators sit on the AEFE’s Board and Commission nationale des bourses (National Scholarship Committee).

**AFE**

The 90 advisors of the AFE (Assembly of French Nationals Abroad) meet twice a year in Paris and work in six permanent committees (including the education committee). The AFE is represented by one full member (plus one substitute member) on the Board of the AEFE and by two full members on the Commission Nationale des Bourses (National Scholarship Committee).

**CONSULAR ADVISERS**

Elected as local representatives from abroad, the 442 consular advisers sit on consular committees for scholarships and on governing boards.

The representatives also participate in the work of the monitoring body for pupils with special educational needs (OBEP), set up by the AEFE in June 2016.
Parents are essential to school life, firstly because they have chosen to rely on the French educational model, and secondly because they are actively involved and contribute substantially to the financing of the schools. They elect their representatives on the governing board and school board.

The parents’ associations (APE) of French educational institutions abroad are represented on the AEFE board by two parent federations:

The **FAPÉE** (Federation of Parent Associations of French Schools Abroad). Set up by parents of all nationalities in 1980 and recognised as a non-profit organisation in 1985, the FAPÉE is made up exclusively of parents’ associations (APE) from the network of French educational institutions abroad. It represents more than 170 associations worldwide. It is independent of any political, trade union or religious affiliation. The FAPÉE is a renowned representative and driving force with its extensive knowledge of the network, thanks to the diversity of its representation;

- The **FCPE** (Federation of Parent Committees). Founded in 1947, the FCPE was officially acknowledged as a non-profit organisation in 1951 and approved as a popular education organisation (“mouvement d’éducation populaire”) in 1982. This independent federation has 310,000 members in France and abroad.

These two federations also sit on the AEFE’s National Scholarship Commission, along with one other federation:
- The **UFAPE** (Federal Union of Associations of Parents of Foreign Students), created in 1971, is one of the branches of the Parent Federation of Public Education (PEEP).

The AEFE works alongside many partners who share its values towards education and citizenship. In doing so, it enables the global school network it coordinates to actively engage in innovative initiatives and large-scale events.
NETWORK OF FRENCH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WORLDWIDE*

139 Countries
522 Schools
of which 98 part of Mission laïque française
370 000 Pupils

Schools:
- in direct management
- Approved
- Partners