



Education and Skills in the United States

France-USA-Net.Com summary, chapters 2 to 13

2. Who decides what?

The federal Department of Education funds programs, protects civil rights, publishes statistics and administers federal aid, but public schools are primarily governed by states and districts. Local property taxes help explain resource differences.

3. Levels

Equivalences are approximate. Admission, professional licensing or formal recognition may require a specialized credential evaluation accepted by the receiving organization.

U.S. level	Age	Rough French equivalent	Terms
Pre-K	3-4	Preschool	Early childhood
Kindergarten	5	Grande section	Start of K-12
Elementary School	6-10	Primary years	Grades 1-5
Middle School	11-13	Middle years	Grades 6-8
High School	14-18	Late secondary	Freshman to Senior
Associate	Postsecondary	Two-year postsecondary	Community college
Bachelor	Undergraduate	Licence approximation	Major, minor
Master / PhD	Graduate	Master / doctorate	Advanced degrees
JD / MD	Advanced	Regulated profession	Professional degrees

4. K-12

K-12 runs from Kindergarten through Grade 12. Attendance ages, testing, vaccination, charter schools, homeschooling and graduation rules vary by state. GPA and AP courses must be read through local policies.

5. Higher education

Community colleges offer certificates and Associate Degrees. Four-year institutions award Bachelor's Degrees. Graduate and professional schools rely on credits, prerequisites, majors, minors and transfer policies.

6. Costs

Tuition, fees, room and board, books, insurance and transportation shape real cost. In-state, out-of-state and private nonprofit amounts vary greatly. The official cost of attendance must be

checked each year.

7. FAFSA

FAFSA primarily serves U.S. citizens, permanent residents and eligible categories. F-1 students are generally not eligible for standard federal student aid. Federal, state and school deadlines all matter.

8. Non-U.S. learners

An international application may include transcripts, English tests, recommendations, essays, financial proof and credential evaluation. A SEVP-certified school issues Form I-20 after admission and financial review.

9. Foreign credentials

There is no single federal recognition office. NACES and AICE include private evaluators often accepted by institutions. Document-by-document reviews describe credentials; course-by-course reviews detail subjects, credits and grades.

10. Skills

Trade schools, community colleges, certifications and apprenticeship programs support training outside traditional universities. Employability depends on employer recognition, accreditation and the target sector.

11. Forms

Key portals include StudentAid.gov, Study in the States, FMJfee, CEAC, College Board, ETS, NACES and AICE. Each organization sets its own deadlines and document rules.

Portal	Purpose	User
FAFSA	Federal postsecondary aid	Eligible students
Form I-20	SEVP document for F/M	School and student
I-901 SEVIS	SEVIS fee	Relevant student
DS-160	Visa application	Visa applicant
NACES / AICE	Credential evaluation	Foreign applicant

12. F-1 pathway

The path includes admission, I-20, SEVIS I-901 fee, DS-160, consular interview, U.S. entry within the authorized window, enrollment and status maintenance with the DSO.

13. PDF

This document reproduces the chapter 2 to 13 benchmarks. Rules and amounts are indicative and must be verified through official sources when acting.