

Schooling students with special education needs

You are parents who wish to school your child in a French school abroad. This document aims at providing you all necessary information.

Indeed, as part of the inclusive school, the AEFÉ network supports a better consideration of all pupils/students' special needs, whatever their nationality, and particularly of students with special education needs in the various contexts of the approved French institutions abroad. Unlike France, such schools do not include dedicated structures.

Such inclusive approach is based on the act of February 11th, 2005 for "handicapped people's equality of rights and opportunities, participation and citizenship", asserted by the Orientation and Programming Act for the Rebuilding of the Republic's School of July 8th, 2013. The AEFÉ's 2014-2017 strategic orientation plan and the Mlf/OSUI's (French Lay Mission/International School and University Office) 2014-2017 Strategic Orientations integrated these requirements.

The aim is to develop inclusive courses for students with special education needs and support them and their family for as long and in the best conditions possible, including leaving the school each time it no longer represents a benefit for the pupil/student.

Students with special education needs are:

- those suffering from a chronic disease;
- those suffering from a disorder of the "dys-" family (dyslexia, dysorthographia, dysphasia, dyspraxia and et dyscalculia);
- those intellectually precocious;
- those handicapped;
- those with great learning or adaptation difficulties.

1. Establishing a first contact

You must contact the interested headmaster and/or primary school headmaster as early as possible. Parents who are French citizens can also contact the Consulate of their future country of residence.

2. Defining your child's capacity for independence

The information related to their school situation must be compared:

- *guide d'évaluation des besoins de compensation en matière de scolarisation* (GEVA-Sco - assessment guide of the compensation needs in terms of schooling):
 - assessment guide of the compensation needs in terms of schooling - first application (GEVA-Sco première demande);
 - assessment guide of the compensation needs in terms of schooling - re-examination (GEVA-Sco réexamen)
- school assessment in class and/or medical or paramedical reports.

3. Implementing study plans adapted to their educational needs

The schools are responsible for building learning plans. The materials to be used are those of the French Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Research (MENESR), filling in the boxes which contextualise your child's schooling. These help to formalise the plans with the parents and harmonise the materials at the French schools' network level.

The schooling support processes are:

- PAI: personalised reception plan (*projet d'accueil individualisé*) in the event of a disease
- PAP: personalised support plan (*plan d'accompagnement personnalisé*) for pupils/students suffering from a "dys-" disorder
- PPS: personalised schooling plan (*projet personnalisé de scolarisation*) when the handicap situation has been acknowledged (by an MDPH - Departmental House for Handicapped People - for a French pupil/student)
- PPRE: personalised school success plan (*programme personnalisé de réussite éducative*) for pupils/students with persisting school difficulties.

These documents are signed and shared by all stakeholders of the project.

As parents of a French handicapped pupil/student, you may submit an application the MDPH of your choosing. The Paris MDPH has been made particularly aware of the issue within the network. The MDPH may be asked to examine a first application or re-examine a file based on the information related to the school situation, i.e. GEVA-Sco, school assessment in class and/or medical or paramedical reports, on-going assistance project. The MDPH's notification is a recommendation to set up human or material compensation.

4. Funding human and/or material compensations

The schools do not invoice you additional fees for your child's schooling

However, additional fees may be occasionally necessary in view of the child adapting well:

- A school attendant for a handicapped pupil/student, formerly called AVS (*Auxiliaire de Vie Scolaire* - Special Needs Assistant): unlike in France, you are directly paying for such person. Some schools or companies may however contribute funds. An additional financial aid may be given to French pupils/students benefitting from a scholarship; such aid covers all or part of the attendant's salary.
- Material fees (equipment): these are to be borne by the parents. Parents of a French pupil/student may submit an application for financial aid with the Consulate.

**Don't hesitate to get in touch and add for additional information,
don't remain isolated!**

AEFE: Isabelle Picault, handicap point of contact isabelle.picault@diplomatie.gouv.fr

Mlf: Dominique Collado dominique.collado@mlfmonde.org

Parents' federations:

Fapée: Isabelle Tardé fapee@club-internet.fr

PEEP: Philomène Cirjak peep@peep.asso.fr

FCPE: Paul Méhu fcpe@fcpe.asso.fr