

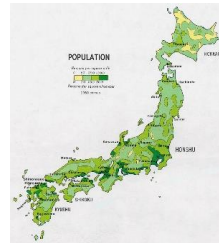
New Ideas about Education

Our new education minister Jean-Michel Blanquer has just announced a series of reforms to try to fight against inequalities, and to improve our way of teaching. He proposed for instance to open a service allowing students to do their homework at school, and to soften the pupil's schedule. We have a long history of educational reforms in France, even if most of them were mostly surface changes. Would this time our minister be able to change deeply this rigid and historical system? What could he be inspired by?

Japan

Pupils take part in extracurricular clubs:

French situation: School clubs are rarely present at elementary and secondary school. Just at University there is a large presence.



What we could do: Stimulate the development of school clubs to improve diversification between pupils' knowledge, personal growth, and the capability of working in team. Starting activities in adolescence let pupils discover their passions and abilities.

1	China: Shanghai
2	Hong Kong
3	South Korea
4	Japan
5	Taiwan
6	Finland
7	Estonia
8	Switzerland
9	Netherlands
10	Canada

OECD ranking on educational systems, France is 21th.

Tutoring activities or workshops are very common:

French situation: Tutoring is already not very common in France, inequalities remain, and homework is not always properly done by the pupils. Many high school students hire private teachers when they want to improve their results, to enter a good university, but this poses a problem of equality.

What we could do: Create, as it is the case in Japan, optional workshops for pupils, being able to choose a subject they want particularly to focus on, maybe while decreasing the total amount of "classical" courses hours. It demands maturity but could help students in the subjects they need the most.



Canada and Japan are very different on their approach, but have both good results if we look at international ratings (made by OECD for instance). Japan gives a big number of hours to his student but also focuses on sports, clubs, cohesion amongst students, while Canada has a less strict system, decentralised, and giving a greater place to sports.

Canada

Each province chooses its own educational program:

French situation: Centralized system held by the Ministry of Education. The only diversification is given by the winter and spring holidays: days change basing on geographic position of cities into zones.



What we could do: The foundation of regional entities whose role is to create educational programs for that zone. The program has to be controlled and validated by the Ministry of Education promoting diversification.

Possibility of career in sport:

French Situation: In France, many students must work in order to pay their tuition fees, their apartment, food etc. And so even if they are considered with enough resources to not be granted scholarship. However, it has been shown that the efficiency of students decreased when they work besides school. Even if there are a few Federations of University Sport in France, these ones are still non-professional, athletic scholarship almost doesn't exist in France.



Athletic scholarships granted in Canada

What we could do: Semi-pro sport university leagues could be created as Canadians have done. Canadians university grants scholarship to students who will join their sports team. These university sports leagues allow also universities to earn extra money from different sponsors, and so to fund more clubs, educational programs etc. Creating such a dynamic may allow students to finance themselves a part of their studies, while continuing to practice sport at a high level. This can also create a new dynamic in the universities and help them to finance them on their own.