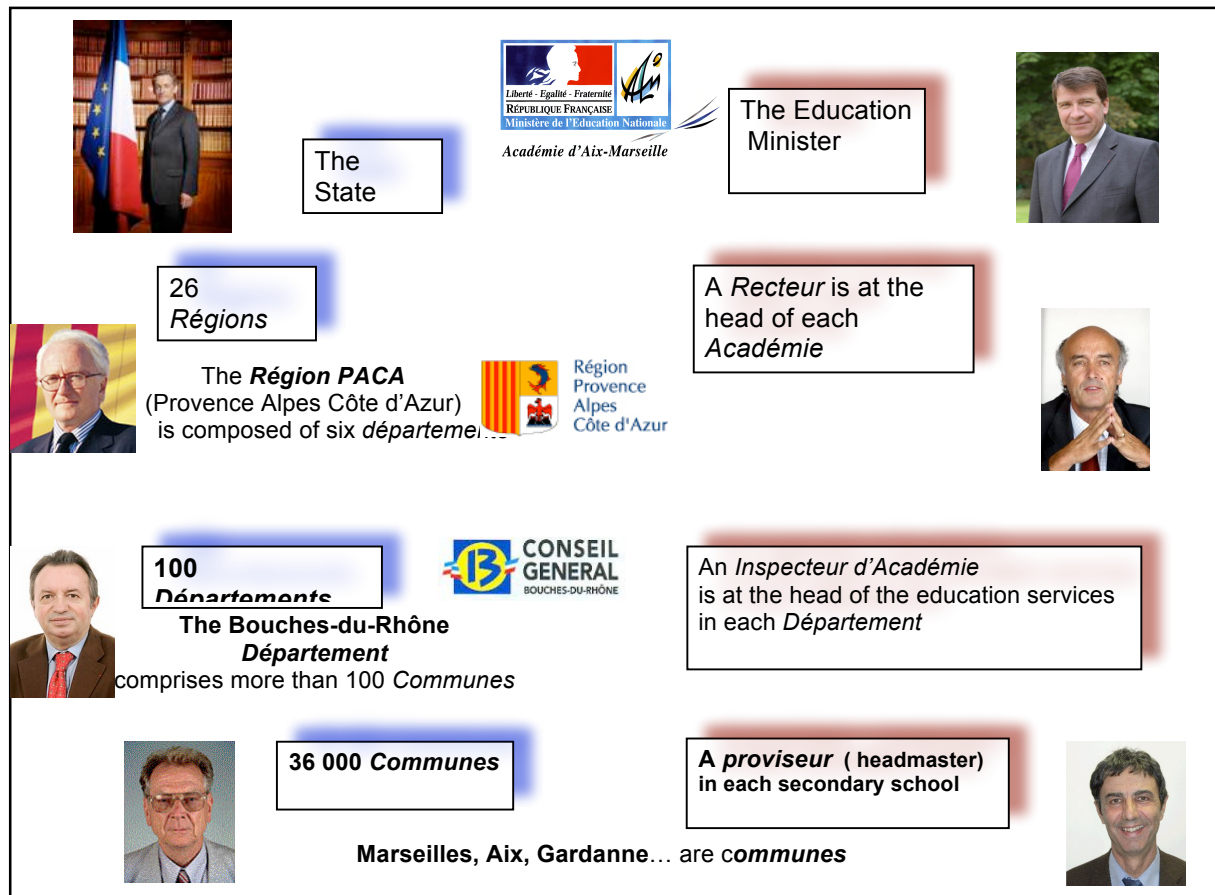


The French Educational System

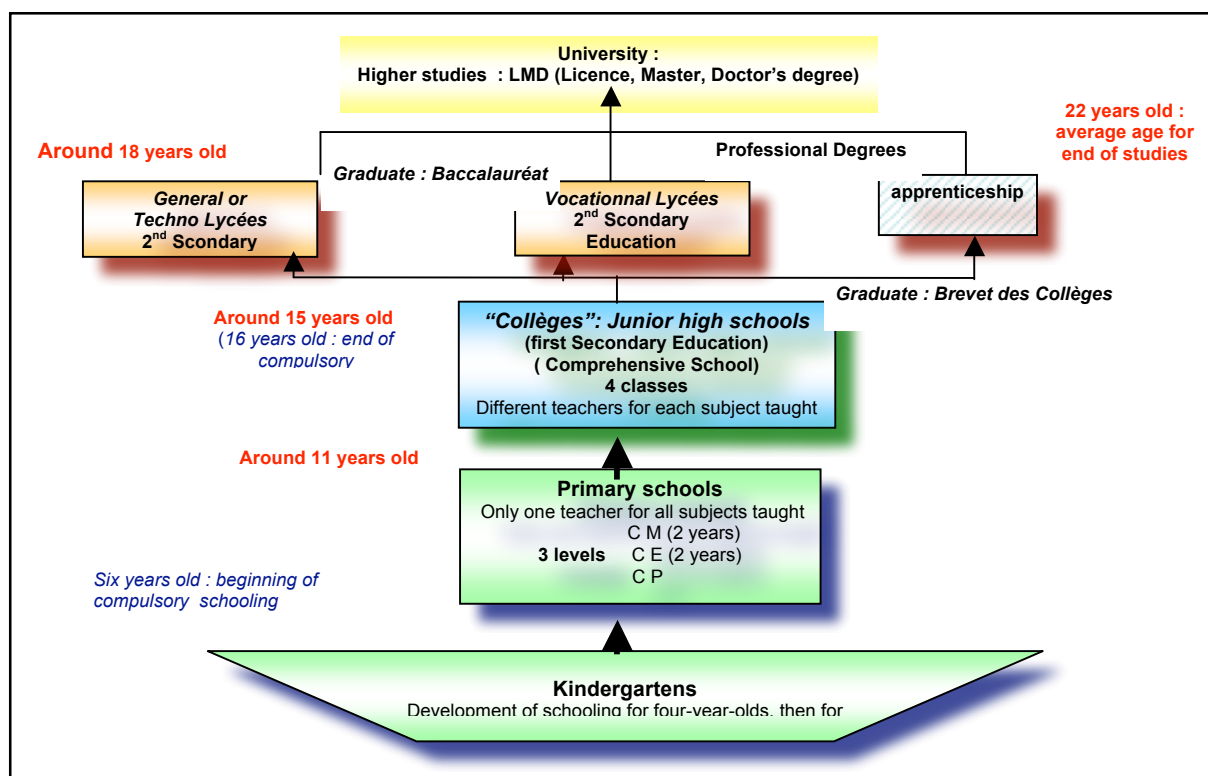
Administration of the country

France is composed of twenty- six **regions** (twenty-two in metropolitan France and four overseas regions). Each region is made up of « **départements** » (**sorts of counties**) created at the time of the French Revolution. **There are 100 « départements »** (ninety-six in metropolitan France and four overseas : Martinique, Guyane, Guadeloupe, Réunion). Each département is composed of communes, **36,558 communes in total**, which replaced parishes and can be very different: 70 % are villages with less than 700 inhabitants. France has three times as many communes as the other member states of the EU.

Each commune is run by a « **conseil municipal** » (town council) and a mayor,



French schools may be public (*state-financed*) or private (*privately-funded*). The Lycée Fourcade is public and is part of the national education system. In our country, the same system exists in each region.



Near one million people currently work in **the French education system**

954,000 teachers + 600,000 other staff. *Public education alone employs 750,000 teachers :*
300,000 in primary education, 375,000 in public secondary schools, 80,000 in higher education
There is a large majority of women teachers (2/3 of total staff)

The academic year spans **36 weeks**.

It is divided into three so-called « terms » (divided into six to seven week periods): each new schoolyear begins on the first of September / Early November : half-term holiday (All-Saints' Day holiday) 10 days / Christmas holiday 15 days / half-term holiday (Winter holiday) 15 days / Spring or Easter holiday 15 days / 30 June : Summer holiday 2 months

In Gardanne, the Lycée Fourcade is open 5 days a week (from Monday to Friday)