

# Inclusion and special needs support in French schools



Raising achievement for all learners

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# The French education system (a)

- A centralized tradition
  - Legal obligation and free education
  - The State's control
  - Local authorities for premises

# The French education system (b)

- Grouping pupils
  - Grade retention and special schooling
  - Devising special provision according to needs
    - Children supported in mainstream classes
    - Children enrolled in special classes most of them sharing schooling in mainstream classes

# Changes towards inclusion (a)

- Taking into account individual needs
  - Customized individual support (preschool/primary/secondary)
  - Individual learning plans
  - School career for special needs pupils

# Changes towards inclusion (b)

- Implementing the 2005 Law for handicapped persons
  - Large increase of pupils enrolled in mainstream classes (+ 31 % in primary; + 100 % in low secondary)
  - Based on
    - Appointment of special needs assistants
    - Provision in secondary schools
    - Additional assistance for exams

# Changes towards inclusion (c)

- Settling difficulties and developing inclusion
  - Applying present law: quality of support, schooling possibilities in mainstream classes for all needs, transition to secondary, quality of learning
  - Undertaking changes: reducing grade retention, linking support organisations, improving teachers' training