



EDUCATION (2)

II. Education in America

1. Description of the system

- a- Primary and Secondary Education
- b- Higher Education

2. Current debates

- a- Minorities and Education: Affirmative Action
- b- Federal vs. Local Funding

Notes typographiques

. *Le vocabulaire thématique en gras ; je vous recommande de vous constituer des FICHES THEMATIQUES de vocabulaire. L'enrichissement de votre vocabulaire passe nécessairement par l'apprentissage par cœur de telles listes. Toutefois, il peut être plus facile de retenir le vocabulaire en contexte, d'où son inclusion ici au sein de phrases rédigées.*

. *Les informations les plus importantes sont soulignées.*

. *Le vocabulaire en italique est utile pour les essais (mots de liaison, connecteurs logiques etc.)*

Les notes de bas de page :

. *les notes en rouge concernent la civilisation et l'histoire*

. *les notes en vert concernent le vocabulaire, les questions de langue, la grammaire*

II. Education in the United States

According to the Tenth Amendment of the American Constitution, **education is not a federal but local matter**. Although there is a **Department of Education** in Washington –but created only under Carter- it has a very limited *sway*. Education is actually dealt with at a local level, by the individual states: that is to say, funding, curriculums¹, teachers etc. Those in charge of the decisions are the members of **Board of Education** – or **School Board**-, individual citizens elected by the local community, and the **State Department of Education**: they, not the Federal State, decide of the budget, curriculums, textbooks, teachers etc.²

To sum up, most of the information and debates I will now address can be understood around two major issues: on the one hand, the **distinction between local and federal levels**, on the other hand, the **racial tensions** American society³ is *rife* with.

1. Description of the American school system

a- Primary and Secondary Education

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| Nursery school or Kindergartens or Pre-school | Age 3 to 5 | These schools are not always available. They are no really part of the state system. |
| Primary School or Grade School | Age 6 to 11 1 st grade to 6 th grade | |
| Elementary School or Junior High School | Age 12 to 14 7 th grade to 9 th grade | 9 th grade = Freshman year ⁴ |
| Senior High school | Age 15 to 18 10 th grade to 12 th grade | 10 th grade = Sophomore 11 th grade = Junior 12 th grade = Senior |
| Degree | Age 18 | 1. High school Graduation 2. SAT (or ACT) |

¹ un programme scolaire : a curriculum or a syllabus (pluriel : syllabi)

² See last month's presentation on "America Today", and especially my point on the teaching of the Evolution Theory.

³ American society, British society, JAMAIS THE [sauf si relative ou complément du nom qui suit: "The American society you are describing / The American society of the 1950s no longer exists"]

⁴ Formulation: It is your "Freshman year", you are "a freshman".