The Global Teacher Status Index 2018 shows for the very first time that there is a direct link between teacher status and pupil performance as measured by PISA scores. Countries which have higher teacher status are more likely to record higher PISA scores. This new finding for the 2018 Index shows that high teacher status is not just a nice to have – increasing it is likely, all things being equal, to lead to greater student outcomes in that country.

Overall, teacher status is rising globally. Of the 21 countries polled in 2013 and again in 2018, 13 have seen their teacher status score increase, while 7 have seen it fall and one, China, continues to have the highest score possible. The biggest increases were seen in Japan (which rose from 17th place out of the 21 countries polled in 2013 to 11th of 21 in 2018) and Switzerland (15th of 21 in 2013 and 8th out of 21 now), while the biggest drops were seen in Greece (2nd out of 21 in 2013 down to 6th of 21 now) and Egypt (6th of 21 in 2013 down to 12th of 21 now).
France ranks 20th out of 35 countries surveyed in the Global Teacher Status Index 2018, one place ahead of Germany. It is the second highest ranked of the major EU economies after the UK, which ranked 13. By contrast, China was the highest ranked country and Brazil the lowest. France’s rank in the GTSI is slightly lower than its rank of 14 out of the surveyed countries by average PISA scores, and while it holds teachers in higher regard than Germany, its neighbour is ahead in the ranking of countries by average PISA scores at 8.5.

One third (33%) of French people are in favour of performance related pay for teachers, a considerable fall from 2013, when almost two-thirds (62%) were in favour of teachers being rewarded in pay according to their pupils’ results. This is the ninth lowest of all the countries surveyed, next to the UK (33%). By stark contrast, 79% of people in Egypt support performance related pay, more than in any other country surveyed.
> Over a quarter of French respondents (28%) said the most comparable profession to teachers are librarians, followed by 17% who said social workers and 16% who said nurses. France is one of 10 countries that chose librarians as the most similar profession, compared with 18 that said social workers. By comparison, only three countries – China, Russia and Malaysia – said teachers were most like doctors. France’s view on which profession is most comparable to teachers has not changed since 2013. Only 1% of French people surveyed said teachers are most similar to doctors, the lowest of all the countries surveyed alongside Israel. In China, by contrast, 37% see teachers as being most similar to doctors, the highest of all the countries surveyed, followed by Russia (34%).

> Confidence in the French education system is increasing, with French people rating their education system 6.14 out of 10 in 2018, compared with 5.6 in 2013. France’s 2018 education system rating puts it in the middle of all the countries surveyed. By contrast, Finland topped the rankings when it came to rating their education system (8.06) while Egypt came last (3.8).
Teacher status has fallen in France relative to other countries polled since the survey was last conducted in 2013. In 2013 it ranked at number 11 out of 21 countries surveyed then, and of those 21 countries France now ranks 13th, falling behind countries such as the Japan (17th out of 21 in 2013 but 11th out of 21 in 2018) and the Finland (13th out of 21 in 2013 but 10th out of 21 in 2018).

Teachers in France hold themselves in lower regard than the French public do. When only polling teachers, the French status score falls from 36.2 out of 100 to 26.2 out of 100. This makes France one of only 12 countries in which teachers saw their status as being lower than the general public do.

When asked to rank 14 professions including doctors, nurses, librarians and social workers in order of respect, France ranked secondary school teachers the second lowest of all the major European economies after Italy, but it ranked primary school teachers the second highest of the major European economies after the UK. The highest ranking for secondary and primary school teachers of all the countries surveyed was in China.
More French people would encourage their child to become a teacher (30%) than would not encourage (24%). This marks an increase on 2013, when only 24% would encourage their child to become a teacher. However, France only ranks 20th out of 35 countries in terms of encouraging children to become teachers, compared with India, where over half (54%) of people would encourage their child to become a teacher, more than any other country surveyed, and with China where 50% would encourage their child. However, it is considerably more than in Russia, where only 6% of people would encourage their child to become a teacher – the least of all the countries polled.

French people do not believe teachers are being paid fairly. When asked to estimate the starting salary of a secondary school teacher, they put the figure at just over $33,000 (adjusted for purchasing power parity), which is very close to what these teachers actually earn. However, French respondents believe a fair wage of a starting secondary school teacher would be over $36,000. This is the 11th highest perceived fair wage of all the countries surveyed, but only around half of the perceived fair wage in first placed Switzerland (over $69,000). In 2013, the perceived fair wage was around $27,000.
> The minimum annual salary required for French people to become a teacher is just over $29,000 (adjusted for PPP), 16.5% lower than what they estimate to be the starting salary of a secondary school teacher ($33,000). France is one of only 13 countries where the minimum salary required for respondents to become a teacher is lower than the estimated salary of a starting secondary school teacher. By contrast, Malaysian respondents’ minimum salary was 32.2% lower than the estimated salary, while in Egypt, respondents would demand a salary 389% greater than the estimated starting salary, more than any other country surveyed.

> French teachers surveyed report they are working on average 36.8 hours a week. However, the public underestimates the number of hours they work, putting the figure at 34 hours a week, the 11th lowest of all the countries surveyed. By contrast, teachers in New Zealand say they are working 52.11 hours a week, more than any other country surveyed, while teachers in Malaysia say they are working 26.1 hours a week, the lowest of all the surveyed countries.