



# Language in the Diaspora: French and the Francophonie

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# French and the “Francophonie”

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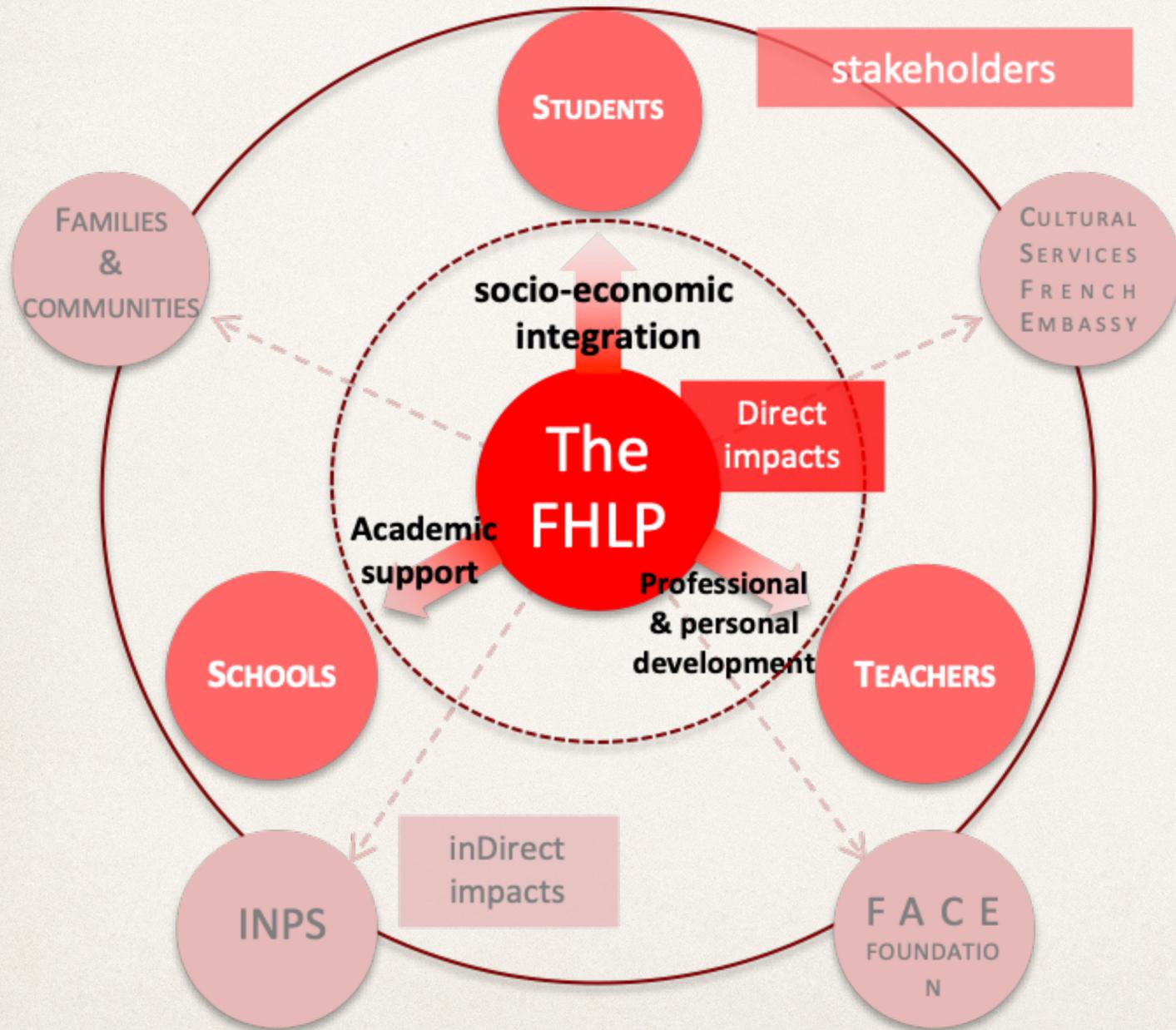
- Who am I: My personal story
- What does the French Heritage Language Program do? Why was it created?
- What is The Francophonie?
- Language and Identity
- The importance of learning a foreign language

# Who Am I?

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# What is the FHLP?



- 1** ADVISORY COMMITTEE
- 1** PROGRAM OFFICER
- 6** FHLP TEACHERS
- 2** FHLP TEACHER ASSISTANTS

Provide **FREE** classes | focused on the practice of French | Through CREATIVE projects

To **150** NYC STUDENTS BETWEEN **14-20** YRS OLD



IN **10** HIGH SCHOOLS



FROM THE



Originated in NYC  
Now Expanded to  
**3** OTHER STATES

# Where is the FHLP?

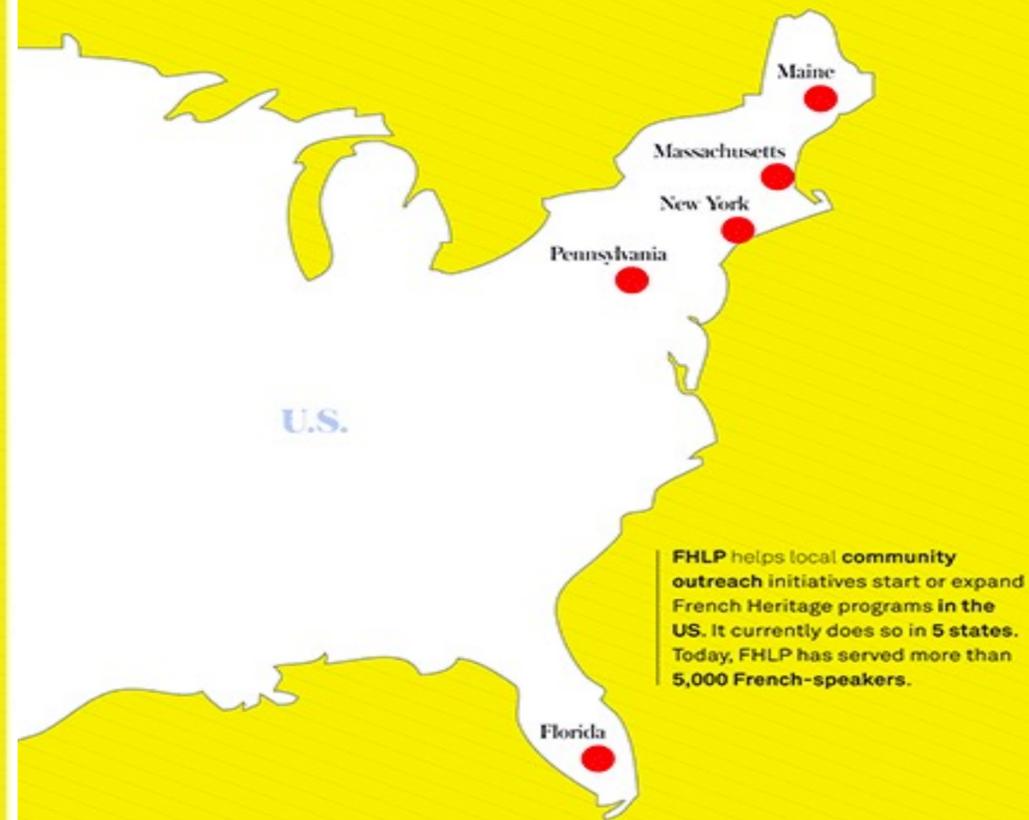
## French Heritage Language Program

Making French an Asset for New Americans

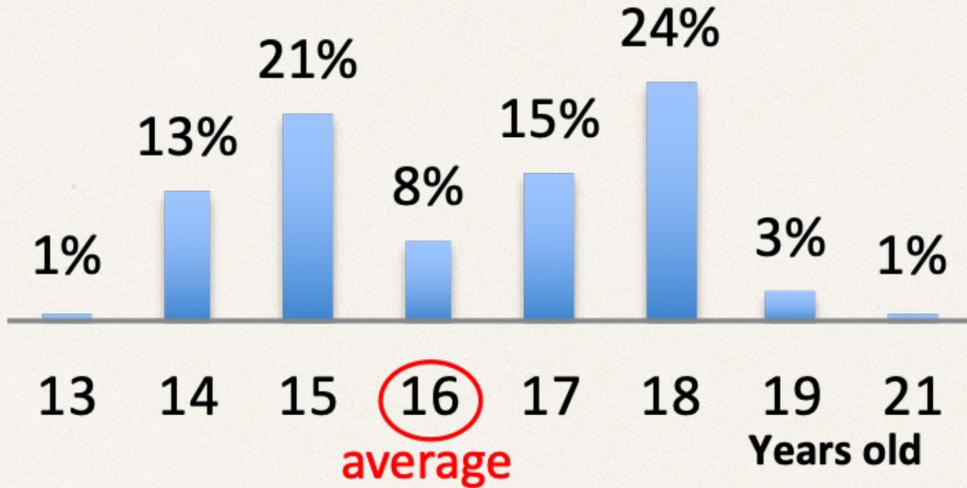
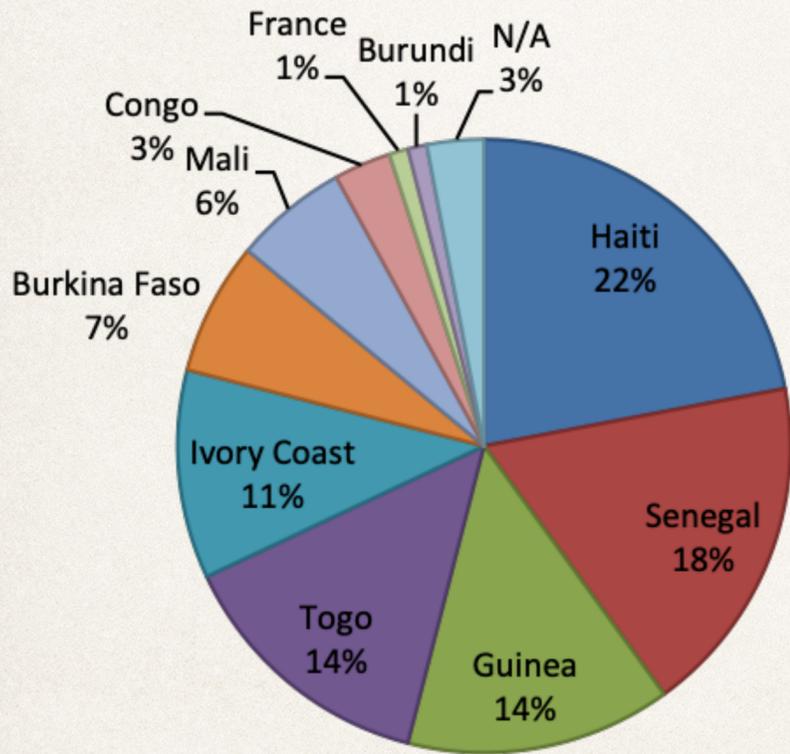


## French Heritage Language Program

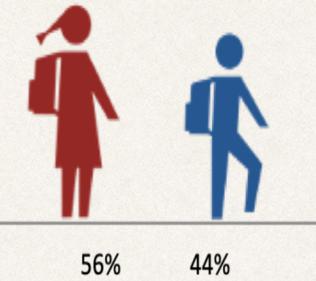
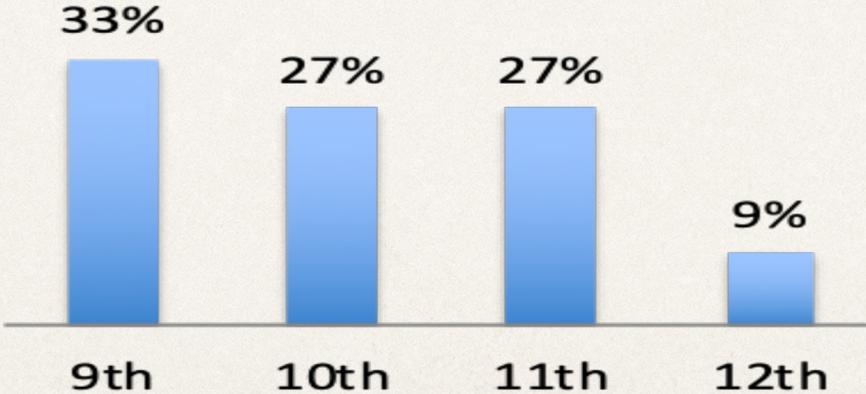
Making French an Asset for New Americans



# Who is the FHLP?

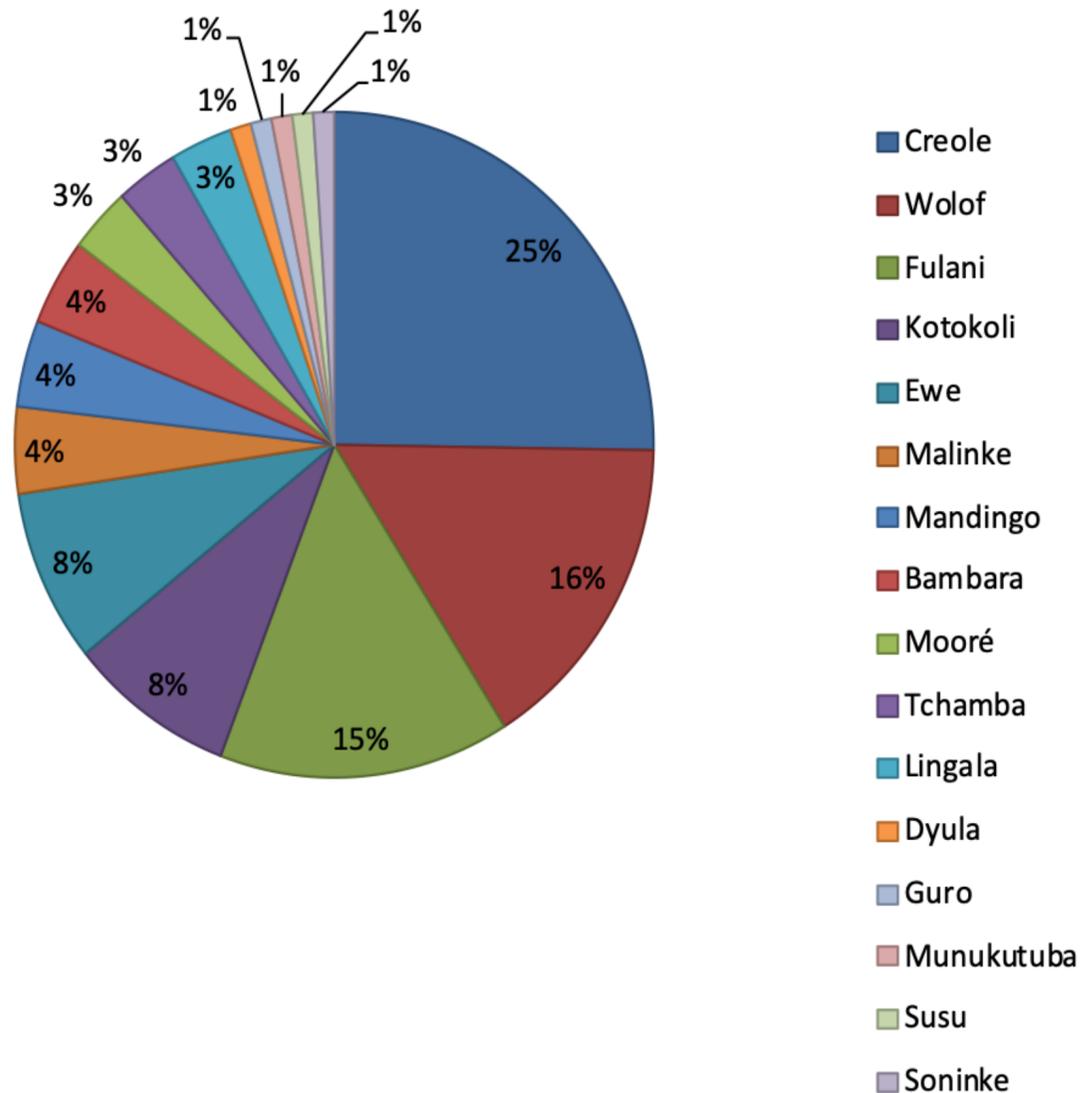


Distribution of students by grade

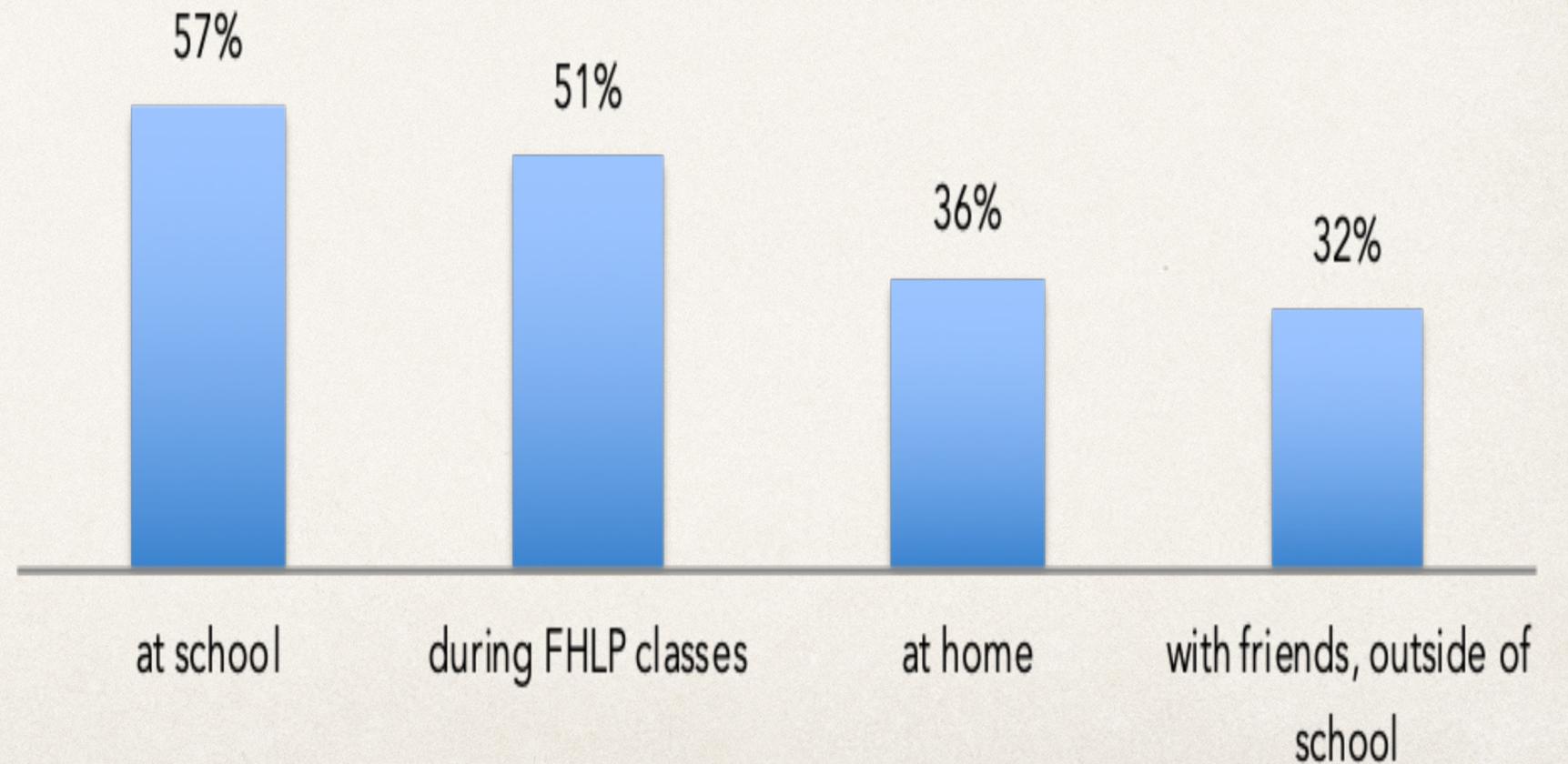


# The languages of the FHLP

Other languages spoken at home before the US



Places where students claim to speak the most French in the US

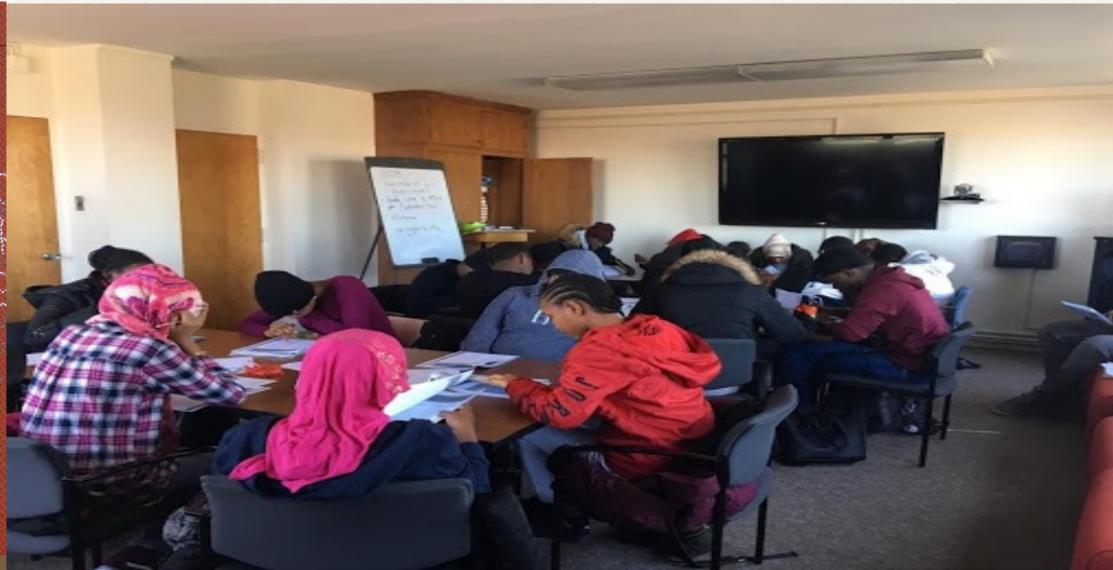


# The FHLP'S triple impact

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- **Linguistic proficiency** by offering a unique setting for new non-English speaking immigrants to **maintain their French and hasten English acquisition.**
- **Academic success** thanks to intellectual development and college readiness projects (mainly AP French): *“The French Heritage Language Program provides an interesting place for intellectual engagement : if you’re new to English, it can be hard to find ways to be as intellectually engaged as you are in your native tongue. Having a sophisticated debate about your homeland in your home language allows for intellectual development which can impact academic skills from writing argumentative essays, to better engaging with content such as geography and history”* Joe Harriman, Lafayette International High School Principal.
- **Social integration and cultural awareness** of having a unique culture and being part of a valued francophone community. The FHLP creates a space where these students can construct their identities as multilingual speakers and learn the value of their various cultural backgrounds.

# What do we do?



- French Theater Festival at the Lycée Français.
- Debate Competition at Fordham University.
- Meeting with French speaker authors from Africa and Haiti.
- African Movies projections.
- Writing competitions in French

# The Francophonie

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- **Francophonie** is the quality of speaking French. The term designates the ensemble of people, organisations and governments that share the use of French on a daily basis and as administrative language, teaching language or chosen language.
- The International Organisation of La **Francophonie** (IOF) has 84 States and governments (including 26 observers) across the five continents. The International Organisation of La **Francophonie's** 84 member states and governments represent over one-third of the United Nation's member states.
- Francophonie reflects the diversity of the French speaking world.

# France and its Territories



## **Africa:**

- Réunion
- Mayotte

## **Antilles:**

- Guadeloupe
- Martinique
- St

Barthélemy  
and St  
Martin

## **North America:**

- Saint Pierre et  
Miquelon

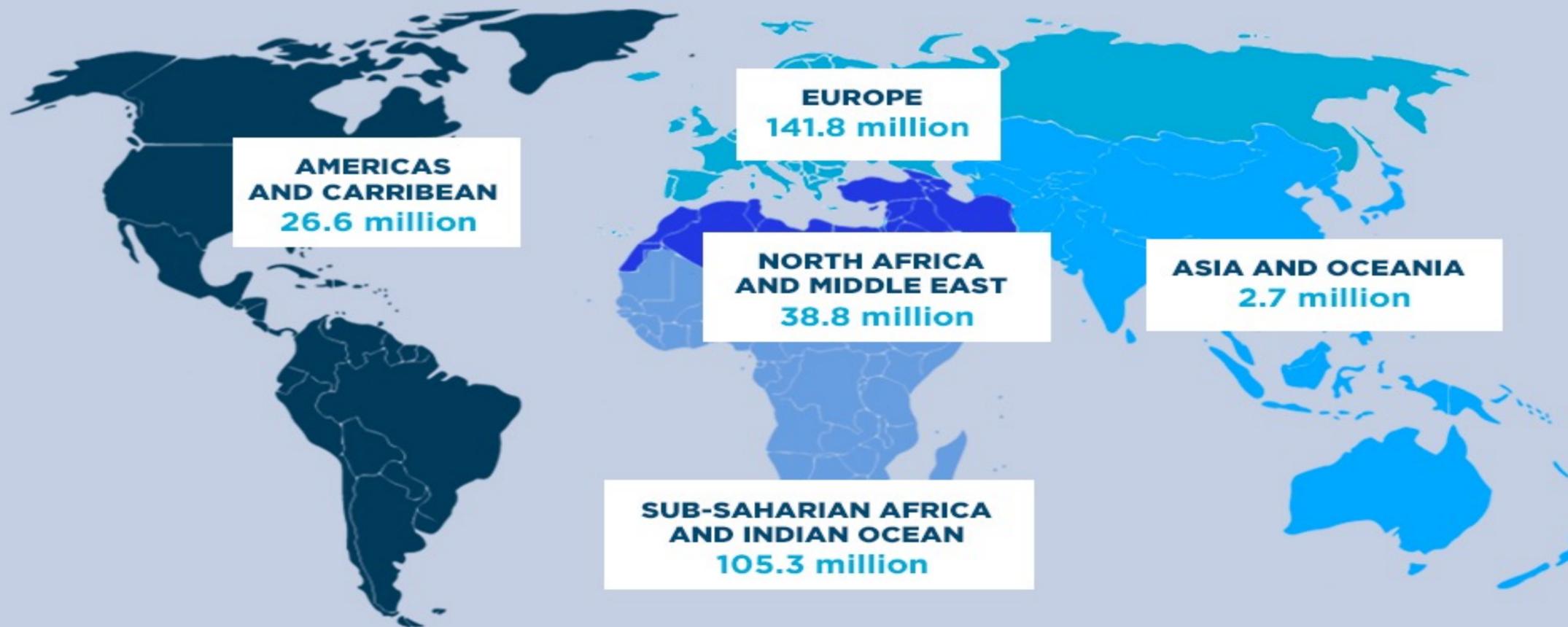
## **South America:**

- French Guinea
- **South Pacific  
Ocean:**

- French Polynesia
- New Caledonia
- Wallis and Futuna



# French speakers around the world



**315.2 million french speakers worldwide**

Source: Organisation internationale de la francophonie, 2018

## 2014 les plus nombreux (en millions)

	France	62,9
	Congo (Rép. démocratique du)	33,2
	Allemagne	11,9
	Algérie	11,2
	Maroc	10,6
	Royaume-Uni	10,5
	Canada (total)	10,4
	Italie	9,4
	Cameroun	9,3
	Belgique	8,0
	Québec	7,6
	Côte d'Ivoire	7,2
	Tunisie	6,0
	Suisse	5,4

# FRENCH SPEAKING COUNTRIES IN EUROPE

- Belgium
- Luxembourg
- Monaco
- Switzerland

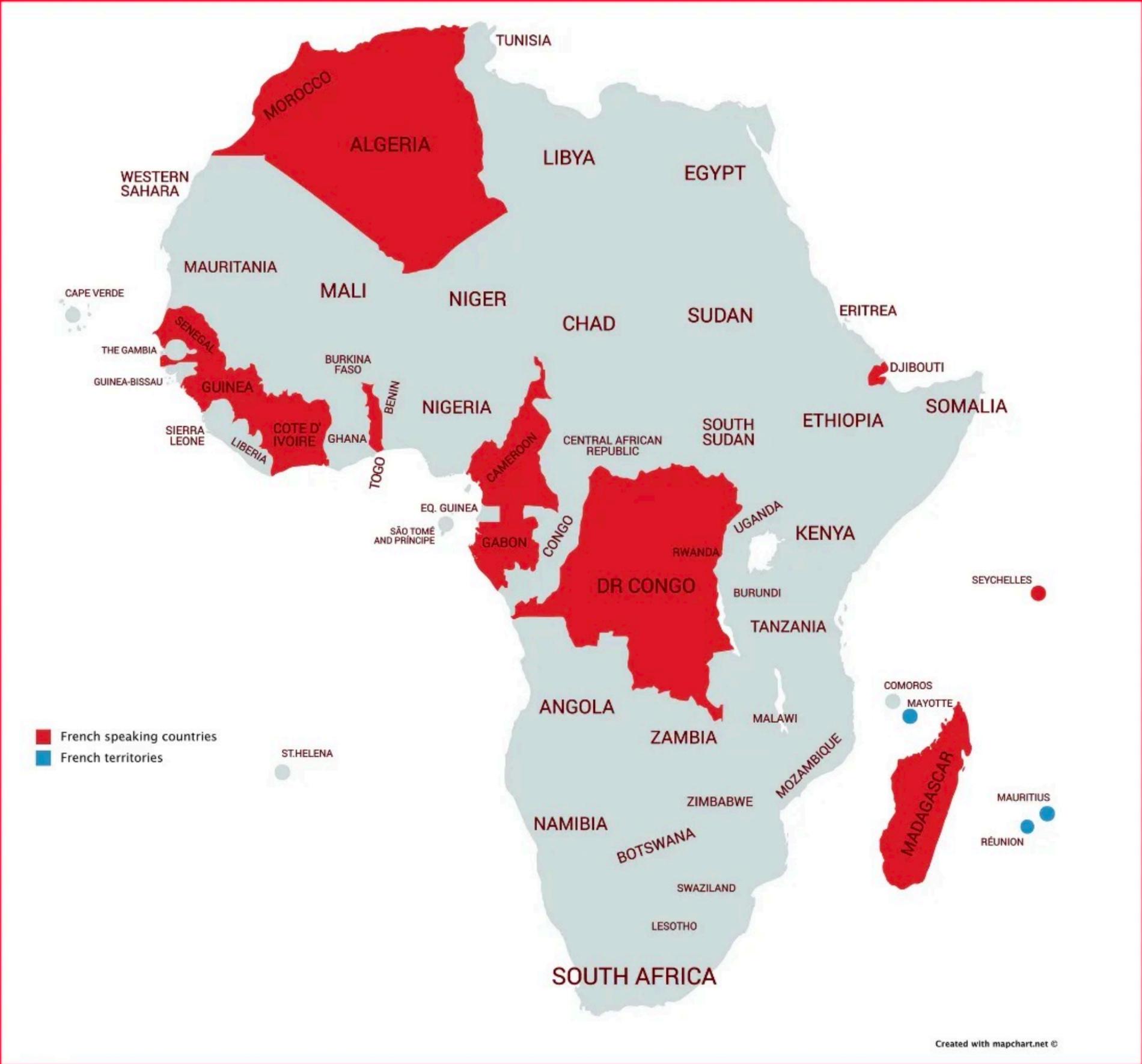
*JustFrenchit*

■ French speaking countries in Europe



# FRENCH SPEAKING COUNTRIES IN AFRICA

- Cameroon
- Algeria
- Morocco
- Congo
- Madagascar
- Senegal
- Gabon
- Seychelles
- Djibouti
- Togo
- Ivory Coast
- Guinea

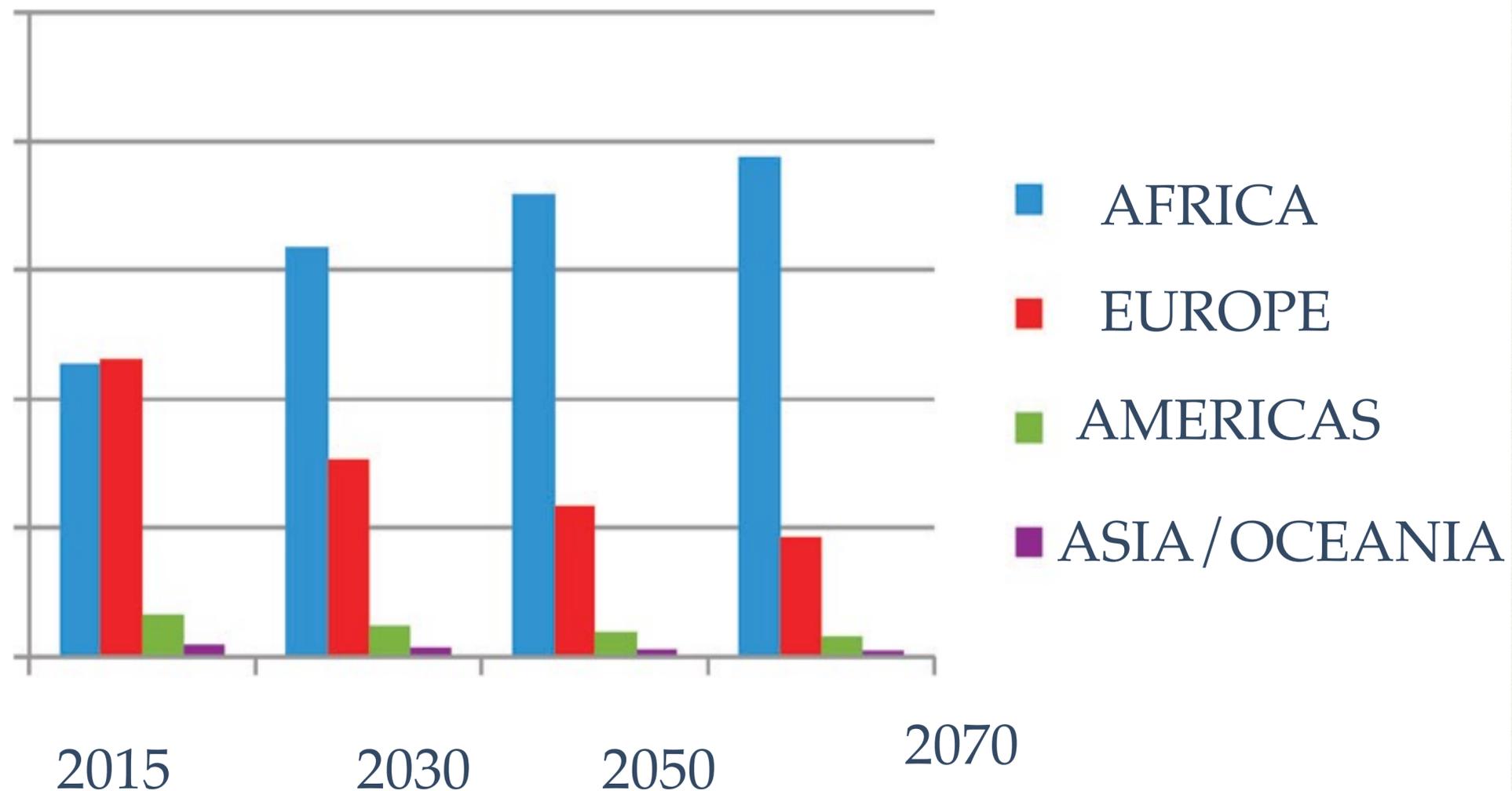


# FRENCH SPEAKING COUNTRIES IN AMERICA

- Quebec (Canada)
- New Brunswick (Canada)
- Dominica
- Haiti
- Saint Lucia



# Estimate of the Francophone population by continent

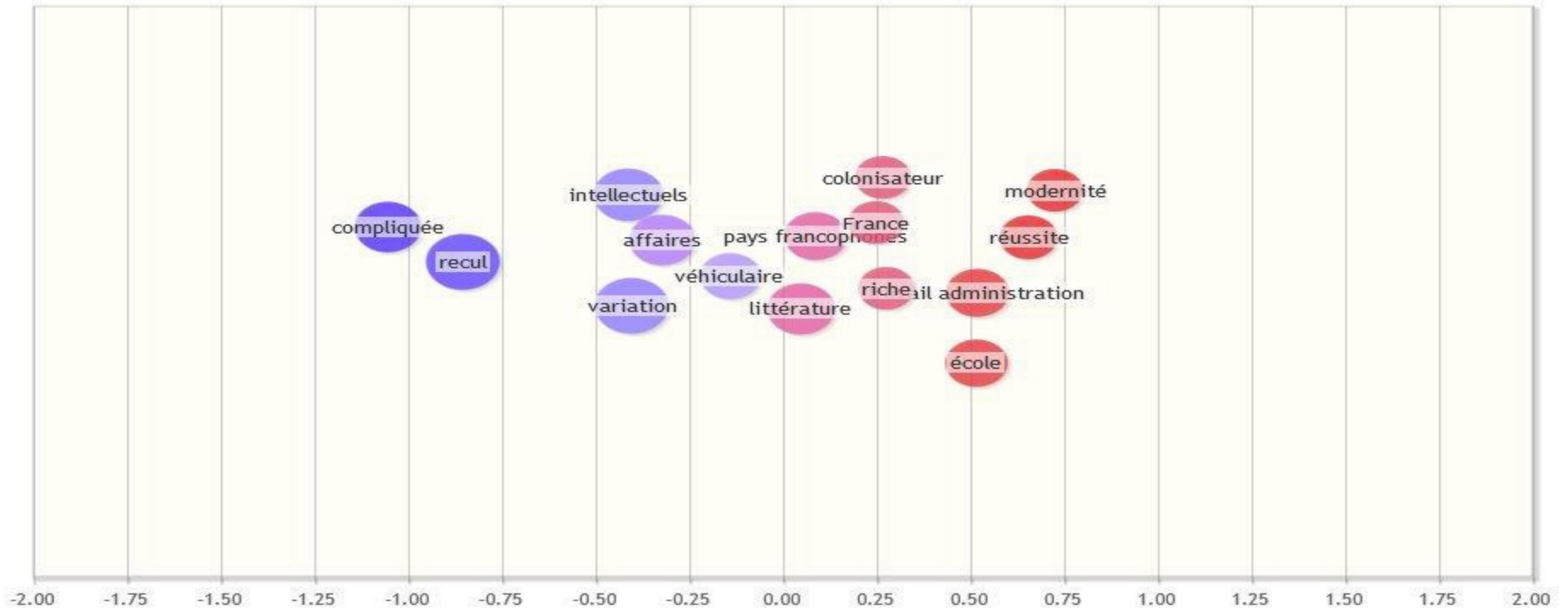


- **Almost half of Africa's countries are francophones. HALF!**
- **54% of Francophones in the world are Africans. And this number is constantly progressing.**
- **In terms in inhabitants, the first francophone city of the world is NOT Paris, but Kinshasa in Congo.**
- **In fact, out of the 10 most populated Francophones cities, only one is located in France.**

# Perception of French

Graphe de la représentation : français

Lycéens - Bénin - Pays le 1 Février 2017



# The Most Widely Spoken Languages of Africa

funmioyatogun.com  
@funmioyatogun



# Reconciling Foreign Language and Identity: How?

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- Bilingual education in national languages and French or English. Ex: South Africa.
- Decolonizing the curriculum (content and teachers): the French language is no longer bound to one culture or territory; the focus is no longer on France's traditions, its literary canon, and language norms. French is no longer perceived and taught as a European language representative of "French" culture. New modes of teaching, learning, and research speak to an inclusive Africanist—and globalized—agenda.
- Pragmatic approach: speaking French equips learners to become multilingual, global citizens with the **cultural competences** needed in this globalized world.

# Monolingualism is the illiteracy of the 21st century.

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- ❖ Greg Roberts: *“Some Americans think if they just bring in enough translators and lawyers, they can do business overseas but the world does business in restaurants and golf courses. If we can’t understand people ourselves, we’re not in the ball game.”.*
- ❖ 9 out of 10 U.S. employers rely on employees with language skills other than English.
- ❖ 56% say their foreign language demand will increase in the next 5 years.
- ❖ 47% state a need for language skills exclusively for the domestic market.
- ❖ 1 in 3 language-dependent U.S. employers report a language skills gap.
- ❖ 1 in 4 U.S. employers lost business due to a lack of language skills.

Merci. Parlons Français!

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Thank you.

Let's speak French!