

# United States ranks 31st in mathematics on Program for International Student Assessment (PISA)

The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) is an international assessment that measures the performance of 15-year-olds in reading literacy, mathematics literacy, and science literacy. Coordinated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), an intergovernmental organization of 34 member countries, PISA was first implemented in 2000 and is conducted every 3 years. PISA 2009 was the fourth cycle of the assessment.

Each PISA data collection effort assesses one of the three subject areas in depth (considered the major subject area), although all three are assessed in each cycle (the other two subjects are considered minor subject areas for that assessment year). Assessing all three areas allows participating countries to have an ongoing source of achievement data in every subject area while rotating one area as the main focus over the years. In the fourth cycle of PISA, reading was the subject area assessed in depth, as it was in 2000 (figure 1).

Sixty countries and 5 other education systems\* participated as partners in PISA 2009. This report focuses on the performance of U.S. students in the major subject area of reading literacy as assessed in PISA 2009. Achievement results for the minor subject areas of mathematics and science literacy in 2009 are also presented.

\* (Other education systems are located in non-national entities, such as Shanghai-China.)

## Combined mathematics literacy scale

### International Ranking - Country/Other Education System - Comparative Score

1. **Shanghai-China - 600**
2. **Singapore - 562**
3. **Hong Kong-China - 555**
4. **Korea, Republic of - 546**
5. **Chinese Taipei - 543**
6. **Finland - 541**
7. **Liechtenstein - 536**
8. **Switzerland - 534**
9. **Japan - 529**
10. **Canada - 527**
11. **Netherlands - 526**
12. **Macao-China - 525**
13. **New Zealand - 519**
14. **Belgium - 515**
15. **Australia - 514**
16. **Germany - 513**
17. **Estonia - 512**
18. **Iceland - 507**
19. **Denmark - 503**
20. **Slovenia - 501**
21. **Norway - 498**
22. **France - 497**

23. **Slovak Republic - 497**
24. **Austria - 496**
25. **Poland - 495**
26. **Sweden - 494**
27. **Czech Republic - 493**
28. **United Kingdom - 492**
29. **Hungary - 490**
30. **Luxembourg - 489**
31. **United States - 487**
32. **Ireland - 487**
33. **Portugal - 487**
34. **Spain - 483**
35. **Italy - 483**
36. **Latvia - 482**
37. **Lithuania - 477**
38. **Russian Federation - 468**
39. **Greece - 466**
40. **Croatia - 460**
41. **Dubai-UAE - 453**
42. **Israel - 447**
43. **Turkey - 445**
44. **Serbia, Republic of - 442**
45. **Azerbaijan - 431**
46. **Bulgaria - 428**
47. **Romania - 427**
48. **Uruguay - 427**
49. **Chile - 421**
50. **Thailand - 419**
51. **Mexico - 419**
52. **Trinidad and Tobago - 414**
53. **Kazakhstan - 405**
54. **Montenegro, Republic of - 403**
55. **Argentina - 388**
56. **Jordan - 387**
57. **Brazil - 386**
58. **Colombia 381**
59. **Albania - 377**
60. **Tunisia - 371**
61. **Indonesia - 371**
62. **Qatar - 368**
63. **Peru - 365**
64. **Panama - 360**
65. **Kyrgyz Republic - 331**

This ranking was compiled by the Program for International Student Assessment 2009. Please access <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pisa/> to view full report.