

Table 1302. Educational Performance: 2005 and 2006

[Tertiary-type A includes education leading to a BA, Master's, or equivalent degree, and advanced research programs. Performance figures were gathered from the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), an internationally standardized assessment jointly developed by participating countries, which takes place in 3-yearly cycles. To implement PISA, each of the participating countries selects a nationally representative sample of 15-year-olds, regardless of grade level. Tests are typically administered to between 4,500 and 10,000 students in each country]

Country	Student performance on the combined reading, scientific, and mathematical literacy scales (2006)			Educational attainment of adult population and current graduation rates (2005) (percent)	
	Mean score on the combined reading literacy scale ¹	Mean score on the mathematical literacy scale ²	Mean score on the scientific literacy scale ³	Upper secondary or higher attainment (25–64-year-olds) ⁴	Tertiary type A attainment (25–64-year-olds)
Australia	513	520	527	65	23
Austria	490	505	511	81	9
Canada	527	527	534	85	23
Czech Republic	483	510	513	90	5 ¹³
Finland	547	548	563	79	18
France	488	496	495	66	15
Germany	495	504	516	83	15
Greece	460	459	473	57	15
Italy	469	462	475	50	5 ¹²
Japan	498	523	531	(NA)	22
Korea	556	547	522	76	23
Luxembourg	479	490	486	66	17
Mexico	410	406	410	21	14
Poland	508	495	498	51	5 ¹⁷
Spain	461	480	488	49	20
Sweden	507	502	503	84	21
Switzerland	499	530	512	83	19
United Kingdom	495	495	515	67	21
United States	(NA)	474	489	88	30
OECD mean	492	498	500	68	19

NA Not available. ¹ Reading literacy is understanding, using, and reflecting on written texts in order to achieve one's goals, to develop one's knowledge and potential, and to participate in society. ² Mathematical literacy is an individual's capacity to identify and understand the role that mathematics plays in the world, to make well-founded judgments, and to use and engage with mathematics in ways that meet the needs of that individual's life. ³ Scientific literacy is the capacity to use scientific knowledge to identify questions and to draw evidence-based conclusions in order to understand and help make decisions about the natural world and the changes made to it through human activity. ⁴ Excluding ISCED 3C short programs. ⁵ All tertiary levels: type A and type B (focus on practical, technical, or occupational skills).

Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Paris, France, *OECD Factbook*, 2008 and *Education at a Glance*, 2007 (copyright). See also <<http://oberon.sourceoecd.org/vl=2046809/cl=18/nw=1/rpsv/factbook/>>.