

Table 408.—Eighth-grade students' perceptions about mathematics achievement and hours spent on leisure activities, by country: 1994–95

Country	Students' self-perceptions about usually doing well in mathematics								Average hours each day					
	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Agree		Strongly agree		Watching TV or videos	Playing or talking with friends	Doing jobs at home	Playing sports	Reading for enjoyment	Playing computer games
	Percent	Mean score	Percent	Mean score	Percent	Mean score	Percent	Mean score						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Australia ¹	3 (0.3)	457 (7.9)	17 (0.7)	487 (5.6)	60 (0.8)	530 (3.9)	20 (0.9)	586 (4.7)	2.4 (0.05)	1.4 (0.03)	0.9 (0.02)	1.6 (0.03)	0.6 (0.02)	0.6 (0.02)
Austria ¹	3 (0.4)	512 (10.1)	21 (1.1)	508 (5.4)	45 (1.2)	535 (4.0)	31 (1.4)	572 (4.3)	1.9 (0.06)	2.9 (0.08)	0.8 (0.03)	1.9 (0.07)	0.8 (0.03)	0.6 (0.03)
Belgium (Flemish)	5 (0.4)	512 (6.7)	29 (1.0)	548 (5.9)	48 (1.1)	567 (6.4)	17 (0.9)	609 (7.2)	2.0 (0.05)	1.6 (0.05)	1.1 (0.03)	1.8 (0.07)	0.7 (0.03)	0.5 (0.06)
Belgium (French) ¹	3 (0.4)	467 (7.8)	19 (1.3)	505 (5.4)	48 (1.3)	528 (3.8)	29 (1.5)	550 (5.0)	1.9 (0.08)	1.7 (0.10)	0.8 (0.03)	1.8 (0.04)	0.8 (0.03)	0.7 (0.03)
Bulgaria ¹	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada	3 (0.3)	480 (9.0)	13 (0.6)	480 (4.9)	49 (1.1)	514 (2.3)	35 (1.1)	570 (3.4)	2.3 (0.04)	2.2 (0.05)	1.0 (0.02)	1.9 (0.03)	0.8 (0.02)	0.5 (0.02)
Colombia ¹	2 (0.4)	—	17 (1.3)	373 (3.7)	51 (1.9)	385 (4.6)	30 (1.4)	398 (5.3)	2.2 (0.07)	1.9 (0.06)	2.3 (0.07)	1.9 (0.06)	0.9 (0.05)	² 0.4 (0.06)
Cyprus	5 (0.4)	411 (7.6)	18 (0.8)	432 (3.7)	46 (1.0)	469 (2.6)	31 (1.0)	521 (4.4)	2.3 (0.04)	1.7 (0.04)	1.0 (0.03)	1.4 (0.04)	0.8 (0.02)	0.8 (0.03)
Czech Republic	2 (0.3)	—	37 (1.4)	516 (4.2)	48 (1.4)	584 (5.2)	13 (1.0)	640 (8.0)	2.6 (0.05)	2.9 (0.09)	1.3 (0.04)	1.9 (0.06)	1.0 (0.03)	0.6 (0.03)
Denmark ¹	1 (0.2)	—	8 (0.6)	431 (7.0)	53 (1.4)	492 (3.0)	38 (1.3)	537 (4.0)	2.2 (0.06)	2.8 (0.07)	1.1 (0.04)	1.7 (0.06)	0.7 (0.03)	0.7 (0.03)
England ¹	1 (0.2)	—	6 (0.6)	475 (8.3)	69 (1.0)	500 (3.0)	24 (1.0)	538 (5.8)	2.7 (0.07)	2.5 (0.06)	0.8 (0.03)	1.5 (0.05)	0.7 (0.03)	0.9 (0.05)
France	6 (0.7)	495 (6.1)	26 (1.1)	513 (4.0)	46 (1.0)	548 (3.4)	22 (0.8)	564 (5.1)	1.5 (0.04)	1.5 (0.05)	0.9 (0.03)	1.7 (0.04)	0.8 (0.03)	0.5 (0.02)
Germany ¹	7 (0.5)	474 (7.1)	24 (1.0)	491 (5.2)	33 (1.1)	511 (5.1)	36 (1.1)	529 (5.3)	1.9 (0.04)	3.5 (0.07)	0.9 (0.02)	1.7 (0.04)	0.7 (0.02)	0.8 (0.04)
Greece ¹	2 (0.3)	—	16 (0.7)	454 (3.6)	55 (0.8)	481 (3.2)	27 (0.8)	515 (4.2)	2.1 (0.04)	1.5 (0.04)	0.9 (0.03)	1.8 (0.04)	1.0 (0.03)	0.7 (0.03)
Hong Kong	11 (0.9)	536 (9.5)	51 (1.2)	577 (6.7)	33 (1.2)	620 (6.7)	5 (0.5)	643 (8.2)	2.6 (0.05)	1.2 (0.04)	0.7 (0.02)	0.9 (0.03)	0.9 (0.02)	0.8 (0.03)
Hungary	3 (0.3)	469 (11.7)	25 (0.9)	490 (4.2)	57 (1.0)	545 (3.4)	15 (0.8)	608 (4.8)	3.0 (0.06)	2.3 (0.05)	2.0 (0.04)	1.7 (0.04)	1.2 (0.04)	0.7 (0.03)
Iceland	3 (0.6)	421 (10.1)	14 (1.4)	447 (4.9)	55 (1.6)	486 (4.5)	28 (1.8)	519 (9.5)	2.2 (0.05)	3.1 (0.06)	0.8 (0.03)	1.8 (0.06)	0.9 (0.06)	0.7 (0.06)
Iran, Islamic Republic	1 (0.4)	—	8 (0.7)	403 (4.3)	62 (1.4)	423 (2.6)	29 (1.4)	450 (3.7)	1.8 (0.06)	1.2 (0.04)	1.8 (0.06)	1.2 (0.09)	1.1 (0.04)	² 0.2 (0.02)
Ireland	3 (0.3)	475 (7.7)	18 (1.0)	492 (5.5)	61 (0.9)	530 (5.2)	18 (1.0)	572 (7.6)	2.1 (0.03)	1.5 (0.06)	0.9 (0.03)	1.4 (0.05)	0.6 (0.02)	0.5 (0.03)
Israel ¹	2 (0.4)	—	12 (1.3)	494 (10.1)	45 (1.9)	513 (6.2)	41 (1.9)	549 (8.3)	3.3 (0.10)	2.4 (0.08)	1.2 (0.05)	1.9 (0.09)	1.0 (0.04)	0.9 (0.04)
Japan	10 (0.5)	523 (3.7)	45 (0.7)	577 (2.3)	40 (0.7)	650 (2.5)	4 (0.3)	669 (7.8)	2.6 (0.04)	1.9 (0.04)	0.6 (0.01)	1.3 (0.03)	0.9 (0.02)	0.6 (0.02)
Korea	9 (0.5)	535 (5.7)	53 (1.0)	572 (3.0)	32 (0.9)	669 (3.0)	6 (0.6)	702 (5.7)	2.0 (0.04)	0.9 (0.03)	0.5 (0.02)	0.5 (0.02)	0.8 (0.03)	0.3 (0.02)
Kuwait ¹	3 (0.7)	364 (11.3)	9 (0.9)	382 (3.6)	49 (1.7)	386 (2.4)	39 (2.1)	405 (3.9)	1.9 (0.07)	1.5 (0.11)	1.2 (0.08)	1.5 (0.10)	1.0 (0.04)	0.7 (0.05)
Latvia (Latvian-speaking schools) ¹	2 (0.3)	—	43 (1.2)	471 (3.5)	43 (1.2)	505 (3.7)	12 (0.8)	542 (5.5)	2.6 (0.05)	2.1 (0.06)	1.5 (0.04)	1.2 (0.04)	1.1 (0.03)	0.7 (0.04)
Lithuania ¹	5 (0.5)	446 (7.5)	46 (1.2)	454 (3.4)	38 (1.2)	492 (4.3)	11 (0.8)	544 (6.0)	2.8 (0.05)	2.7 (0.06)	1.2 (0.03)	1.2 (0.04)	1.0 (0.03)	0.9 (0.04)
Netherlands ¹	4 (0.5)	487 (12.4)	21 (1.4)	504 (7.1)	43 (1.3)	537 (8.4)	32 (1.6)	580 (7.3)	2.5 (0.09)	2.8 (0.08)	0.9 (0.04)	1.8 (0.06)	0.6 (0.03)	0.7 (0.04)
New Zealand	2 (0.3)	—	13 (0.8)	466 (6.1)	62 (0.9)	501 (4.5)	22 (0.8)	559 (5.5)	2.5 (0.05)	1.5 (0.04)	0.9 (0.02)	1.5 (0.04)	0.8 (0.02)	0.7 (0.03)
Norway	3 (0.3)	434 (7.4)	18 (0.9)	455 (3.2)	58 (1.0)	504 (2.2)	21 (0.8)	555 (4.4)	2.5 (0.04)	3.2 (0.06)	1.1 (0.03)	1.9 (0.05)	0.7 (0.02)	0.8 (0.03)
Portugal	7 (0.5)	419 (3.6)	37 (1.1)	435 (2.3)	42 (1.1)	463 (2.5)	14 (0.8)	502 (5.2)	2.0 (0.04)	1.7 (0.05)	1.0 (0.04)	1.7 (0.04)	0.7 (0.02)	0.7 (0.03)
Romania ¹	6 (0.6)	455 (12.0)	25 (1.0)	459 (4.6)	49 (0.9)	488 (4.3)	20 (1.0)	505 (6.3)	1.9 (0.06)	1.5 (0.06)	1.9 (0.08)	1.3 (0.05)	1.3 (0.07)	0.6 (0.05)
Russian Federation	2 (0.3)	—	37 (1.4)	501 (7.1)	43 (1.1)	547 (5.1)	18 (0.8)	590 (4.9)	2.9 (0.05)	2.9 (0.05)	1.5 (0.03)	1.0 (0.03)	1.3 (0.04)	1.0 (0.04)
Scotland ¹	2 (0.3)	—	10 (0.8)	455 (5.5)	66 (1.3)	491 (4.8)	22 (1.3)	553 (9.3)	2.7 (0.05)	2.8 (0.08)	0.7 (0.02)	1.9 (0.05)	0.7 (0.02)	1.0 (0.04)
Singapore	6 (0.4)	587 (9.0)	38 (1.2)	624 (5.2)	46 (1.1)	659 (4.9)	11 (0.6)	677 (6.2)	2.7 (0.05)	1.5 (0.04)	1.0 (0.03)	0.7 (0.03)	1.1 (0.02)	0.6 (0.03)
Slovak Republic	1 (0.2)	—	28 (1.1)	496 (3.8)	55 (1.1)	555 (3.8)	15 (0.7)	619 (5.2)	2.7 (0.05)	2.9 (0.07)	1.5 (0.05)	1.8 (0.04)	1.0 (0.03)	0.6 (0.03)
Slovenia ¹	2 (0.3)	—	24 (1.1)	497 (4.0)	53 (1.0)	538 (3.6)	21 (0.9)	602 (4.2)	2.0 (0.04)	1.7 (0.05)	1.6 (0.05)	1.6 (0.03)	0.9 (0.02)	0.6 (0.02)
South Africa ¹	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spain	5 (0.5)	441 (4.6)	23 (1.0)	456 (2.6)	45 (1.1)	488 (2.6)	27 (1.0)	522 (3.4)	1.8 (0.05)	1.8 (0.06)	1.1 (0.03)	1.7 (0.04)	0.6 (0.02)	0.3 (0.02)
Sweden	2 (0.3)	—	16 (0.7)	475 (3.4)	61 (0.9)	517 (3.0)	21 (0.8)	565 (3.8)	2.3 (0.04)	2.3 (0.05)	0.9 (0.02)	1.6 (0.04)	0.7 (0.02)	0.6 (0.02)
Switzerland ¹	3 (0.4)	497 (10.1)	21 (0.9)	528 (4.0)	47 (0.9)	541 (3.0)	28 (1.1)	575 (3.3)	1.3 (0.03)	2.4 (0.05)	1.0 (0.03)	1.8 (0.03)	0.8 (0.02)	0.4 (0.02)
Thailand ¹	2 (0.3)	—	38 (1.5)	510 (5.1)	45 (1.1)	529 (6.6)	15 (0.9)	537 (7.4)	2.1 (0.07)	1.2 (0.03)	1.6 (0.03)	1.1 (0.02)	1.0 (0.02)	0.3 (0.02)
United States	3 (0.3)	430 (5.1)	11 (0.6)	462 (4.8)	52 (0.9)	491 (4.3)	34 (1.0)	534 (5.9)	2.6 (0.07)	2.5 (0.06)	1.2 (0.04)	2.2 (0.05)	0.7 (0.02)	0.7 (0.03)

¹ Countries not meeting all International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement's sampling specifications.

² Student response data available for 70 to 84 percent of students.

—Data not available or not applicable.

NOTE.—Data are for 8th grade or equivalent in most countries. Standard errors appear in parentheses.

SOURCE: International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement, *Mathematics Achievement in the Middle School Years: IEA's Third International Mathematics and Science Study, 1997*, by Albert E. Beaton et al. Copyright © 1996 Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA. (This table was prepared June 1997.)