

PISA

Latin America and the Caribbean

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BASIC FACTS ABOUT PISA

What is PISA?

- The OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a test taken by 15-year-olds who are close to finishing compulsory education, in order to evaluate their knowledge and skills required to fully participate in society.
- The test measures how students are able to extrapolate what they have learned and apply their knowledge in contexts that are not familiar to them, both inside and outside of the classroom.
- This approach reflects the fact that societies today do not reward knowledge in itself but what people can do with what they know.
- The test is administered in three main subject areas: reading, mathematics and science. For the PISA 2015 edition, the main focus is on science.

Which countries participate?

- PISA is the principal international test that currently exists to measure and compare knowledge and skills of young people in the education system.
- In the 2015 edition, 72 countries and economies participated in the test.
- 10 countries from Latin America and the Caribbean participated: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.
- Additionally, results can be observed for 5 cities in the region: Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires (Argentina), Bogotá (Colombia), Medellín (Colombia), Manizales (Colombia) and Cali (Colombia).



What is it used for?

- PISA enables education policy makers in each country to compare the knowledge of young people to that of students in other countries.
- This test also demonstrates what it is possible to attain in education, as the achievements of high-performing countries can be observed.
- In many countries, PISA is used to set education policy objectives, conduct research on best practices and initiate learning processes from similar countries.
- In addition to measuring knowledge and skills, PISA collects extensive information about the characteristics of young people, schools, and education systems, enabling an analysis of the characteristics associated with better results in these tests, and guidelines on possible policy actions.

Notes about Latin America and the Caribbean in PISA

- The IDB publishes a series of notes regarding PISA results in the region. These notes respond to questions about the region's results, education policies and implications for countries:

NOTE 1 | HOW DID THE REGION PERFORM?

NOTE 2 | HOW MUCH DID THE REGION IMPROVE?

NOTE 3 | HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE LOW PERFORMING?

NOTE 4 | HOW MANY STUDENTS ACHIEVED AN OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE?

NOTE 5 | HOW DO BOYS AND GIRLS PERFORM?

NOTE 6 | HOW DO POOR AND RICH STUDENTS PERFORM?

NOTES ON EDUCATION POLICY

NOTES BY COUNTRY



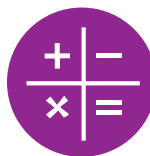
What does PISA measure?



Scientific literacy: measures the ability of students to engage with science and the ideas of science. A scientifically literate person may participate in reasoned discourse about science and technology, which requires the ability to explain phenomena scientifically, evaluate and design scientific research, and interpret data and evidence in a scientific manner.



Reading literacy: measures the ability of students to understand, use, reflect and relate to written texts in order to achieve their objectives, develop their knowledge and potential, and participate in society.



Mathematical literacy: measures the ability of students to formulate, use and interpret mathematics in a variety of contexts. This includes mathematical reasoning and the use of mathematical concepts, procedures, facts, and tools to describe, explain and predict phenomena. It helps them recognize the role that mathematics plays in the world, and to make the judgments and well-founded decisions required by constructive, committed and reflective citizens.

Web: www.iadb.org/pisa | www.iadb.org/cima

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References: OECD (2016). PISA 2015 Results Excellence and Equity in Education (Volume I).

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