

New Zealand results in PISA 2003 (41 countries) and PISA 2000 (32 countries) as compared to other participating countries (including OECD countries)

Reading literacy

2003

- ❖ Finland was the only country that performed statistically better than New Zealand.
- ❖ New Zealand's average score was statistically similar to eight countries, including Australia and Canada.

2000

- ❖ Finland was the only country that performed statistically better than New Zealand.
- ❖ New Zealand's average score was statistically similar to six countries, including Australia and Canada.

Mathematical literacy

2003

- ❖ There were only four countries that achieved results that were statistically better than New Zealand's.
- ❖ New Zealand's average score was statistically similar to ten countries, including Australia and Canada.

2000

- ❖ No country achieved results that were statistically better than New Zealand's.
- ❖ New Zealand's average score was statistically similar to seven countries, including Australia and Canada.

Scientific literacy

2003

- ❖ Only four countries performed statistically better than New Zealand.
- ❖ New Zealand's average score was statistically similar to eight countries, including Australia and Canada.

2000

- ❖ Only two countries (Japan and Korea) achieved results that were statistically better than New Zealand's.
- ❖ New Zealand's average score was statistically similar to five countries, including Australia and Canada.

List of countries participating in PISA 2006

 Argentina	 Australia*	 Austria*
 Azerbaijan	 Belgium*	 Brazil
 Bulgaria	 Canada*	 Chile
 Colombia	 Croatia	 Czech Republic*
 Denmark*	 Estonia	 Finland*
 France*	 Germany*	 Greece*
 Hong Kong-China	 Hungary*	 Iceland*
 Indonesia	 Ireland*	 Israel
 Italy*	 Japan*	 Jordan
 Korea*	 Kyrgyzstan	 Latvia
 Liechtenstein	 Lithuania	 Luxembourg*
 Macao-China	 Mexico*	 The Netherlands*
 New Zealand*	 Norway*	 Poland*
 Portugal*	 Qatar	 Romania
 Russian Federation	 Serbia & Montenegro	 Slovak Republic*
 Slovenia	 Spain*	 Sweden*
 Switzerland*	 Chinese Taipei	 Thailand
 Tunisia	 Turkey*	 United Kingdom*
 United States*	 Uruguay	* OECD countries

Contact Information

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A LETTER TO PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS



all about PISA 2006

Issued by the Research Division of the Ministry of Education

PISA 2006 is taking place in your school – it is one of the world's biggest education studies and a key indicator of student achievement.

PISA measures the achievement of students who have been in our education system for 10 years. It is important that the students chosen to take part in PISA engage with the assessment so that the results accurately reflect their performance and the quality of effective teaching in New Zealand schools.

This brochure tells you about PISA, what happens and how you can support it in your school.

What is PISA?

PISA is the Programme for International Student Assessment. It is an international study that looks at how well young adults can use their **maths**, **science** and **reading** skills and knowledge to meet challenges in real life. PISA also collects information on students' attitudes, beliefs, learning strategies and their home and school environments.

The assessment is done every three years and it first began in 2000. Each assessment has a focus on one of the three subject areas. In 2000 it was reading literacy and in 2003 mathematical literacy. PISA 2006 will focus on science, and nearly 60 countries will take part.

Why is PISA important?

We can use the results from PISA to help us to develop a better education system in New Zealand. PISA helps us to understand how well we are preparing students for life in the real world. We will use the results to shape our curriculum, focus on quality and effective teaching and make our world-class education system even better.

Who organises PISA?

PISA is commissioned by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and implemented in New Zealand by our Research Division at the Ministry of Education.

When will PISA 2006 happen?

The study will take place during July and August 2006, and the international results and a summary report will be available in December 2007.

Who is taking part?

Students have been randomly selected from your school to take part. They had to have been born between 1 May 1990 and 30

April 1991 to be eligible, but apart from that, their selection is random.

Similarly, your school was also chosen at random, from all secondary schools in New Zealand. It is one of nearly 200 in New Zealand to represent our country in PISA 2006. New Zealand is one of nearly 60 countries to take part.

What do the students have to do?

Students will be asked to complete a two-hour pencil and paper test and a 30-40 minute questionnaire. Their parents or caregivers will also be asked to complete a questionnaire, and your school principal will complete a questionnaire about the school.

The parent/caregiver questionnaire will help us to better understand the relationship between student achievement and family factors.

Will students and schools get their results?

Yes. Later in the year students will receive their individual results (confidential to the student) and a certificate showing that they took part in PISA 2006, and schools will receive a summary of their students' overall results.

What do you have to do?

Your PISA co-ordinator will tell you if you have students in your class who are taking part. He or she will send us the names of the eligible students, organise a date, time and venue for the assessment, liaise with the external test administrators and be available on the day of the test. The PISA co-ordinator will liaise with the Ministry's Research Division.

If you have students who are selected to take part, please encourage them to do their best – their participation will help us to continue to improve upon our world-class education system. For any questions you can't answer, please refer them to your PISA co-ordinator.

If their parents or caregivers ask you about the questionnaire, please reassure them that it is confidential and encourage them to complete it. If they ask questions you can't answer, please refer them to the PISA National Project Manager, Maree Telford at the Ministry of Education, telephone 04 463 8831 or email maree.telford@minedu.govt.nz.

PISA is a learning opportunity

PISA is one of the world's biggest education studies. You could make the most of having PISA conducted at your school and use it as a way to teach students about research and statistics. Information about the methodology, implementation and data is available from the Education Counts website www.educationcounts.edcentre.govt.nz/research/pisa.html



Hon Steve Maharey
Minister of Education

Resources for more information about PISA

- ❖ Telford, M (2006), Assessing scientific literacy: Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), *NZ Science Teacher: Journal of the New Zealand Association of Science Educators (NZASE)* vol. 111, pp 26-27.
- ❖ Ministry of Education December 2004, *Learning for Tomorrow's World*, Wellington.