



Information Briefing

IOWA SCHOOL BOARDS FOUNDATION

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Summary of the 2009 PISA Results

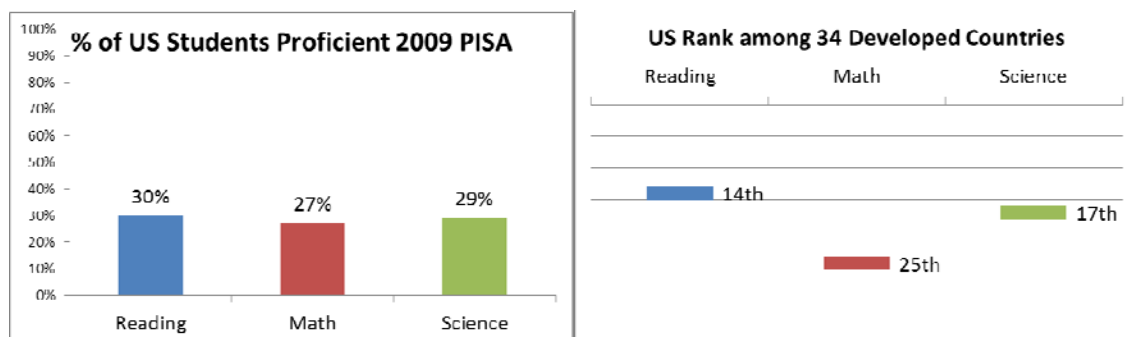
Overview (Retrieved December 10, 2010 from <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pisa/>).

“The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a system of international assessments that focuses on 15-year-olds' capabilities in reading literacy, mathematics literacy, and science literacy. PISA also includes measures of general or cross-curricular competencies such as problem solving. PISA emphasizes functional skills that students have acquired as they near the end of compulsory schooling. PISA is coordinated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), an intergovernmental organization of industrialized countries. Begun in 2000, PISA is administered every 3 years. Each administration includes assessments of all three subjects, but assesses one of the subjects in depth. The most recent administration was in 2009 and focused on reading literacy.”

Sample Question from Reading Literacy.

“We can talk about the content of a piece of writing (what it says). We can talk about its style (the way it is presented). Anne wanted the style of this information sheet to be friendly and encouraging. Do you think she succeeded? Explain your answer by referring in detail to the layout, style of writing, pictures or other graphics.”

2009 Results.



In reading literacy, 30% of U.S. students scored at or above proficiency (level 4 of 6), described by PISA as capable of "difficult reading tasks" and "critically evaluating" a text. The 2009 results are not significantly different from the 2000, 2003, or 2006 results. Of the 34 developed countries tested, the US ranked 14th.

In mathematics literacy, 27% of U.S. students scored at or above proficiency, described as complete higher order tasks such as solving problems that involve visual or spatial reasoning in unfamiliar contexts. The 2009 results are significantly higher than 2006 but not different from 2003. In mathematics literacy, the us ranked 25th.

In science literacy, 29% of U.S. students scored at or above proficiency, described as able to select and integrate explanations from different disciplines of science or technology and link those explanations directly to life situations. The 2009 results are significantly higher than 2006. In science literacy, the us ranked 17th.

More detailed results can be found at
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2011004>.