

**Does Australia have a World-Class Education System?
Evidence from PISA 2006**

International Rankings

Fifty-seven countries participated in PISA 2006¹. Of these, only three countries, Finland, Hong Kong-China and Canada, significantly outperformed Australia in Scientific Literacy, meaning that Australia ranked equal fourth. Japan and Korea, which had outperformed Australia in 2000 and 2003, tied with Australia in 2006.

SCIENTIFIC literacy

2000	2003	2006
Korea Japan	Finland Japan Hong Kong C Korea	Finland Hong Kong C Canada
32	41	57

In Mathematical Literacy, eight of the 57 participating countries significantly outperformed Australia, meaning that Australia ranked equal ninth. In 2003, Australia ranked equal eighth.

MATHEMATICAL literacy

2000	2003	2006
Japan	Hong Kong C Finland Korea Netherlands Liechtenstein Japan Canada	Chin. Taipei Finland Hong Kong C Korea Netherlands Switzerland Canada Macao C
32	41	57

¹ The number of countries participating in each year is shown in the bottom right corner in the Table.

In Reading Literacy, five of the 57 countries significantly outperformed Australia, meaning that Australia ranked equal sixth. Only Finland and Korea outperformed Australia in 2003. The reason for Australia's changed ranking was an increase in reading levels in Hong Kong-China coupled with a decline in Australia's reading results, placing us below Canada and New Zealand in 2006.

READING literacy

2000	2003	2006
Finland	Finland Korea	Korea Finland Hong Kong C Canada New Zealand
32	41	57