

Singapore PISA Report

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Singapore's scores on the 2015 Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) tests reveal the country continues to achieve top performing marks among the participating countries, since its first PISA exams in 2009. The country continues to score above the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) average in 2009, 2012, and 2015 among the three areas of science, math, and reading covered on the exams developed by OECD.

In 2015, Singapore's PISA scores ranked first among the three subject areas covered, overtook the previous spot held by Shanghai, China in 2012. Even though, the ratings are among the highest in 2015 compare to the other participating countries. Singapore saw a decrease in the mean scores compared to its previous 2012 PISA exam scores across the three subjects, with the largest difference in the science subject.

Table 1

Singapore's Mean Scores on PISA in 2012 and 2015.

	Mean Score 2012	Mean Score 2015	Score Difference from Singapore 2012 Results
Science	580	556	-24
Math	573	564	-9
Reading	542	535	-7

Note. Data from Program for International Student Assessment (2015). National Center for Education Statistics.

As a result of the 2015 PISA's score, the Ministry of Education (MOE) sees the intensive investments are paying off after taking over the first place for the three covered subjects. Singapore attributes its success to its substantial investment in recruiting, training, professional development, and retention of its teachers (Coughlan, 2016). The MOE plays an active role in

evaluating, monitoring, adjusting, and upgrading the curriculum to ensure students are learning from the latest and best resource materials (Coughlan, 2016). Also, the MOE is proud of their latest achievements and is excited to share with educators from around the world to showcase how it has achieved this feat.

The Singapore government provides its input into the framework for the secondary education. Around 2006, Singapore's government identified the pedagogical framework called Teach Less, Learn More, which it wants to move forward with (Manley, 2015). This framework urged instructors to focus more on the quality of learning rather than the quantity of learning, prefers to have students develop in-depth knowledge rather than rote learning.

In conclusion, other participating PISA countries are looking toward Singapore as a role model for their educational framework. Continuously, the MOE is researching new ways to improve their PISA scores.

References

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