

Ireland PISA Report

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Ireland, a member of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), has participated in every cycle of PISA since 2000 (OECD, 2019). Ireland has shown stability in science and math since the transition to online PISA testing in 2006. On the PISA 2015, science literacy was the main topic and Ireland's students averaged a score of 503 points compared to an average of 493 points in OECD countries. Boys performed 11 points higher than girls. In mathematics, on average, students scored 504 points compared to an average of 490 points in OECD countries with boys performing 16 points higher than girls. Showing an increase since 2006, Ireland's average performance in reading was 521 points, compared to an OECD average of 493. Unlike the science and mathematics, girls performed 12 points higher than boys (Education GPS, n.d.).

Reactions from the Education Department and the Irish Times were similar. While happy with the improvement in reading, both the Education Department and the Irish Times show concern for the widening disparity between boy and girls in mathematics and science. The Irish Times reported that the disparity "may be explained by the transition to computer-based testing, where some girls may feel less confident or have less prior experience" (O'Brien, 2016). The PISA transitioned to a computer-based format in 2006. (OECD, 2019).

The Ireland department of education enumerated in a "General Note" the changes that were already underway in addition to those Ireland planned to implement. In addition to providing more support for teachers of Junior Cycle Mathematics and Junior Cycle Sciences, Ireland started a 5-year plan to embed information and communications technology (ICT) in teaching, learning and assessment for the period running 2015 -2020. Implementation of the plan

is meant to support additional use of ICT and digital learning in Science and in Mathematics as well as across the curriculum (Education\_Ire., n.d.).

## References

Education GPS. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://gpseducation.oecd.org>

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O'Brien, C. (2016, December 6). Irish students among 'best at reading' in developed world. Retrieved from <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/irish-students-among-best-at-reading-in-developed-world-1.2894910>.