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## **Connecticut Students Out-perform International Peers**

*International Test Results Compare CT to Over 60 Education Systems from Around the World*

(HARTFORD, CT)— Connecticut students are out-performing peers around the world in reading and science according to results released today by the [Program for International Assessment \(PISA\)](#). In math, Connecticut students are keeping pace with their global peers.

Only four education systems in the world outperformed Connecticut in reading and only seven systems did statistically better in science. In math, students performed on average with their international peers, but performed above-average nationally.

“These results are proof that our teachers are doing an excellent job of preparing our young people to succeed in a global economy,” said Governor Dannel P. Malloy. “While there is still much work to be done to level the playing field, we clearly have a solid foundation to build upon.”

Other national and global assessments mainly measure what students have learned, whereas the goal of the PISA test is to assess students’ ability to apply acquired knowledge and skills in real-world contexts.

“We in Connecticut are proud to be one of the first states to step up and be measured in the global context. Thanks to the dedication of our teachers and school leaders, the results are encouraging. Connecticut is competitive internationally, performing especially well in reading and science,” said State Department of Education Commissioner Stefan Pryor. “At the same time, we must advance efforts to close our achievement gaps, strengthen our math results, and ensure that all students are well positioned for success in 21<sup>st</sup> century careers.”

**PISA 2012 Performance Average Scale Scores**

	<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	<b>SCIENCE</b>	<b>READING</b>
	<b>AVERAGE SCALE SCORE</b>	<b>AVERAGE SCALE SCORE</b>	<b>AVERAGE SCALE SCORE</b>
<b>Connecticut</b>	506 (*)	521 (*, **)	521 (*, **)
<b>OECD average</b>	494 (*)	501	496
<b>United States</b>	481 (**)	497	498

\* Significantly different from U.S. average

\*\*Significantly different from OECD average

PISA, coordinated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), has been administered every three years since 2000. It assesses three content areas: mathematics, science, and reading. With more than 60 education systems participating, representing about 90 percent of the world's economy, PISA is the largest international study of student performance.

The 2012 administration marks the first time that any U.S. state has had access to information about its students within this particular international context. Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Florida were the only U.S. states that participated as education systems in the PISA 2012 administration. In fall 2012, the Program for International Assessment (PISA) was administered in 50 Connecticut schools to approximately 1,700 fifteen-year-old students.

Results are reported in terms of average scale scores (0 - 1,000) and proficiency levels. Comparisons are made to the 34 OECD member countries, which include many of the world's most advanced countries, and to the other education systems and partner countries that participate in the assessment.

The majority of achievement gaps monitored by Connecticut are not comparable across countries and other education systems. However, the state-specific results do reflect a persistence of achievement gaps among sub-groups.

The complete report, including sample test items can be found at: [www.nces.ed.gov/surveys/pisa](http://www.nces.ed.gov/surveys/pisa); or <http://www.oecd.org/pisa/keyfindings/pisa-2012-results.htm>.

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