

## Mathematics Test Score Comparison (2007): Average=500

### Grade Four

Hong Kong	607
Singapore	599
Chinese Taipei	576
Japan	568
Kazakhstan	549
Russian Federation	544
England	541
Latvia	537
Netherlands	535
Lithuania	530
<b>United States</b>	<b>529</b>

### Grade Eight

Chinese Taipei	598
Republic of Korea	597
Singapore	593
Hong Kong	572
Japan	570
Hungary	517
England	513
Russian Federation	512
<b>United States</b>	<b>508</b>
Lithuania	506
Czech Republic	504

While math and science scores may not have declined over time, many cite the declining performance of US students in math and science relative to other countries as a significant concern. The results of the TIMSS are often cited among concerns about US student math and science performance. The table shows that US fourth grade students rank eleventh among students in thirty-six countries and US eighth grade students rank ninth among students in forty-eight countries in math scores. Another commonly used international comparison for K-12 math and science students is the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). On the most recent (2006) PISA assessment, US 15-year olds ranked below 24 other countries in math and 23 other countries in science among the 30 OECD countries. The US ranking in math remains low (25<sup>th</sup>) even when looking at the average scores of top performers. While statistics like these are often used to argue for the inadequacy of the US math and science education in the United States, the PISA data reflect not only on the educational system but also on broader societal trends. As noted by PISA researchers: “It cannot automatically be inferred that the schools or particular parts of the education system in the first country are more effective than those in the second. However, one can legitimately conclude that the cumulative impact of learning experiences in the first country, starting in early childhood and up to the age of 15 and embracing experiences both in school and at home, have resulted in higher outcomes.”

Data Source: *Networking and Information Technology (NIT) Workforce Study Final Report* – May 29, 2009, “Five Reasons Why China Will Rule Tech” – Bloomberg Businessweek, July 9, 2010