

Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2022

Summary of Results for British Columbia

OVERVIEW OF PISA

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is an international assessment that measures 15-year-old students' knowledge and skills in the areas of Mathematics, Science and Reading. It is organized by the [Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\)](#). Within Canada, PISA is coordinated by the [Council of Ministers of Education, Canada \(CMEC\)](#) and [Employment and Social Development Canada \(ESDC\)](#).

PISA has been administered every three years in the official language of the jurisdiction and starting with 2025, it will switch to a four-year cycle. PISA 2022 was the eighth administration (2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2022).

| Domain | PISA 2009 | PISA 2012 | PISA 2015 | PISA 2018 | Spring 2022 | PISA 2025 |
|--------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Major | Reading | Mathematics | Science | Reading | Mathematics | Science |
| Minor | Mathematics | Science | Reading | Mathematics | Science | Reading |
| Minor | Science | Reading | Mathematics | Science | Reading | Mathematics |

PISA 2022 was administered during the COVID-19 pandemic and Mathematics was the major domain, while Science and Reading were minor domains. Over 620,000 students from 81 countries including Canada participated.

In Canada, approximately 23,000 students from over 800 schools participated across the 10 provinces. In each province, the assessment was administered in either English, French, or both, depending on the province's school system. Schools and the students within schools were selected randomly for participation.

As part of the assessment, students and principals also completed questionnaires, which help to contextualize achievement results and provide information on factors that contribute to the success of students, schools, and education systems¹.

The results are reported solely at the pan-Canadian and provincial levels. No results are attributed to individual schools or students.

B.C. STUDENTS OVERALL PERFORMANCE

- PISA 2022 results show that BC students continue to perform **among the best in the world** in Mathematics, Science and Reading.
- BC performed **at the Canadian average** and scored **well above the OECD average in all three domains**.
- However, while B.C. students continue to perform at a comparatively high level, there is some decline from the previous assessment in these results, which is a global trend following the pandemic.

B.C. STUDENTS PERFORMANCE IN MATHEMATICS (MAJOR DOMAIN)

- In Mathematics, 9 jurisdictions performed above BC's range, 12 jurisdictions performed at the same level as BC, and 59 jurisdictions performed below BC's range.
- While B.C. students scored well above the OECD average in Mathematics, a declining trend in student performance for Mathematics has been noted.
- 79% of BC students reached the baseline level of Mathematics proficiency required to participate fully in modern society (Level 2), while 12% were high performers (Level 5 or 6).

¹ Questionnaire results are released separately from achievement results.

- The gender gap in Mathematics in favour of boys persists in Canada overall. BC students scored at the Canadian averages for both genders. The disparity between the averages for girls and boys in BC is not statistically significant.

B.C. STUDENTS PERFORMANCE IN SCIENCE AND READING (MINOR DOMAINS)

Reading

- In Reading, 1 jurisdiction performed statistically above BC's range, 17 jurisdictions performed at BC's range, and 62 jurisdictions performed below BC's range.
- B.C. students scored well above the OECD average in Reading.
- 83% of BC students reached the baseline level of Reading proficiency required to participate fully in modern society (Level 2), while 14% were high performers (Level 5 or 6).
- BC female students outperformed BC male students in reading. This was observed in every province except PEI.
- BC Anglophone students performed above their BC Francophone peers.

Science

- In Science, 4 jurisdictions performed above BC's range, 10 jurisdictions performed at BC's range, and 66 jurisdictions performed below BC's range.
- B.C. students scored well above the OECD average in Science.
- There was no gender gap noted in Science performance.
- BC Anglophone students performed better in Science than their BC Francophone counterparts.

MORE INFORMATION

- B.C. Ministry of Education and Child Care webpage: http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/nat_int_pubs.htm
- The Canadian Report webpage: https://www.cmec.ca/712/PISA_2022.html
- The International Report webpage: <https://www.oecd.org/publication/pisa-2022-results/>
- Email questions to: natintquestions@gov.bc.ca