

International PISA tests show how evidence-based policy can go wrong

[Society & Culture](#) [1]

[Society & Culture](#) [1] [School and education](#) [2] [Norway](#) [3] [Opinion](#) [4] [Forskning.no](#) [5]

OPINION: PISA gives scores to participating countries so they can be ranked from best to worst for the skills measured, as well as measuring how they stand globally over all skills. Too much importance is being given to these scores and rankings.

[The Programme for International Student Assessment](#) [6] (PISA) implemented by the OECD has been controversial since the publication of its first results in 2000.

Measuring the mathematics, science and reading skills of 15-year-old students every three years, PISA relies on broad international participation. In the 2015 test, as many as [72](#) [7] countries joined the exercise, including those outside the OECD.

It's common to find articles where PISA is presented as a measure of a country's [innovation and growth potential](#) [8]. But it's also not rare to find others where the metrics used are [contested](#) [9] as irrelevant and potentially counter-productive.

