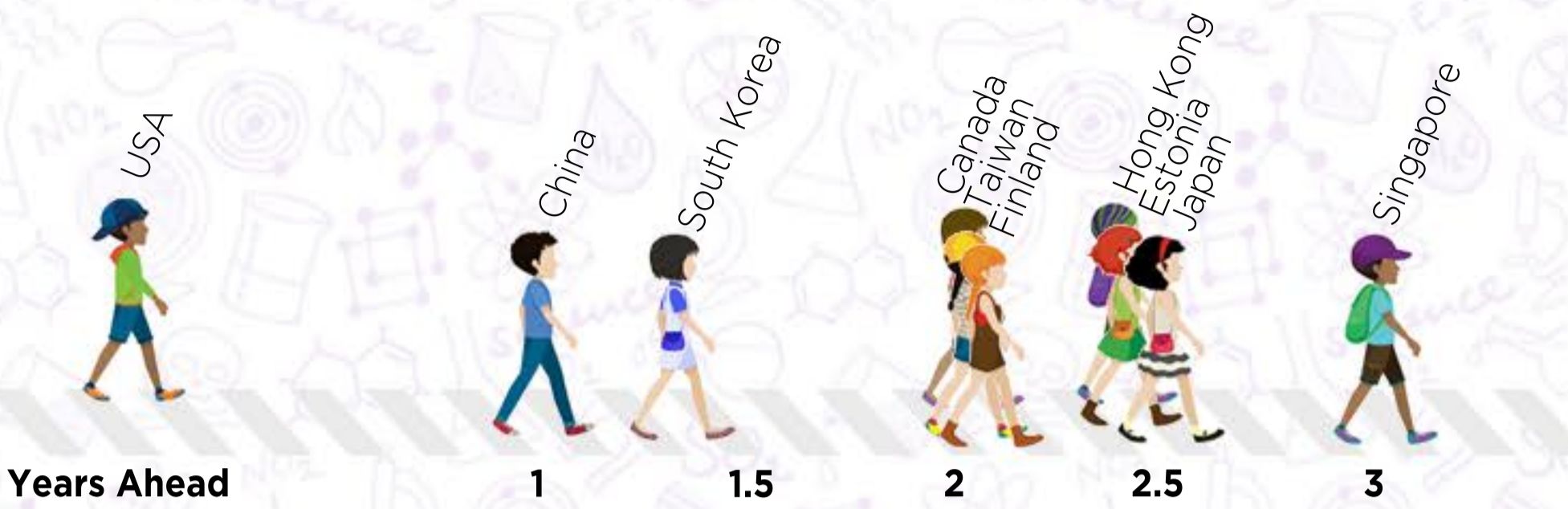


# How Far Behind Are the Most At-Risk U.S. Students?

According to data from PISA 2015

## Low Performers



The lowest performing students, those that perform in the 25th percentile, in **China** and **South Korea** are around **a full year ahead** of their U.S. peers, and those in **Canada, Finland** and **Taiwan** are **two full years ahead** of their U.S. peers. That gap stretches to about **2.5 years** for students from **Hong Kong, Estonia** and **Japan** and to **3 full years** for students from **Singapore**.

## Immigrant Students



Immigrant students in **Estonia, New Zealand** and **Hong Kong** are **around a year ahead** of immigrant students in the U.S., while immigrant students in **Canada** are **almost two years ahead** and immigrant students in **Singapore** are **3.5 years ahead** of immigrant students in the U.S.

## Disadvantaged Students



Among the poorest students, those from the lowest quartile of socioeconomic status, students from **Taiwan, South Korea, Canada** and **Finland** are around **a full year ahead** of their U.S. peers, and disadvantaged students in **Singapore, Japan, Estonia** and **Hong Kong** are closer to **1.5 years ahead** of similar students in the U.S.

Countries included in each graphic are the top performers whose most at-risk students outperform the most at-risk student in the U.S. by a significant margin.

According to OECD, on PISA 2015 a score difference of 30 points is the equivalent of one year of formal schooling. These charts are based on science performance, the subject emphasized on PISA 2015.

For more on how these countries provide quality education for even the most at-risk students, see [CIEB's Top Performing Education System profiles](#)