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.

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