**British Columbia’s Education System**

A diverse student population, with high performance for students from all demographics

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**Top-Performing Students**

According to the 2015 PISA exam results, British Columbia scored

- 1st in reading
- 2nd in science
- 6th in mathematics

15-year-olds in British Columbia are one-and-a-half years ahead of their U.S. counterparts in science and mathematics.

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**Equity in Student Performance**

- 39.4% of B.C. students who took PISA 2015 were immigrants, compared to 23.1% in the U.S.
- B.C.’s immigrant students scored an average of 4 points higher on PISA in science than their non-immigrant peers, compared to 32 points lower in the U.S.
- Variance in student performance in science explained by student’s socio-economic background on PISA 2015, much lower than the OECD average of 12.9%.

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**Demographic Data**

- 641,127 total students in British Columbia’s primary and secondary schools, similar to the U.S. state of Utah’s 647,870 total students
- 18:1 student : teacher ratio, significantly higher than the U.S. ratio of 15:1
- $11,832 yearly spending per student, quite close to the U.S.’s $11,319 per student per year

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For more on this international top performer, see CIEB’s profile on Canada’s education system. And read Marc Tucker’s interview with Rod Allen, who oversaw B.C.’s recent curriculum overhaul.

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