

# Japan's Education System

Consistent high performance combined with equity and efficiency

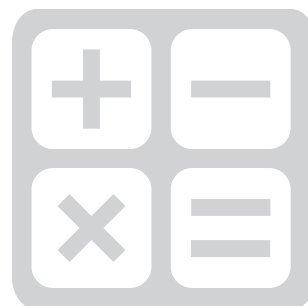
## Top-Performing Students

According to the 2015 PISA exam results, Japan scored



2nd in science

and



5th in mathematics



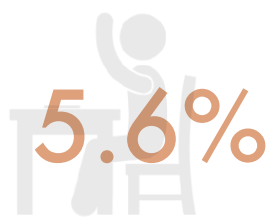
15-year-olds in Japan are **more than two years ahead** of their U.S. counterparts in mathematics

## Equity in Student Performance



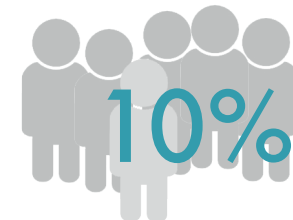
49%

of disadvantaged Japanese students were 'resilient' (scored in the top quartile of PISA 2015 despite their background), the highest share of resilient students among OECD member countries



5.6%

of Japanese students were low-performing on PISA 2015 in all three subjects, less than half the OECD average of 13% and the second lowest among OECD member countries



10%

Variance in student performance in science explained by student's socio-economic background on PISA 2015, ninth lowest among OECD member countries

## Demographic Data



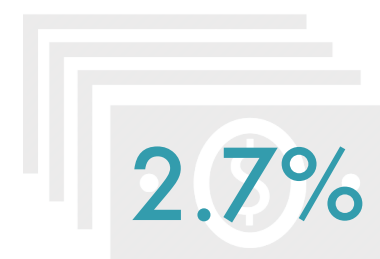
13 million+

Total students in Japan's primary and secondary schools, more than twice the students in California (6.2 million), the largest school population in the U.S.



17:1

Student : teacher ratio in Japan's primary schools, higher than the U.S. ratio of 15:1



2.7%

GDP spent on education, third lowest among OECD countries and much lower than the U.S. and OECD average of 3.5%

For more on this international top performer, see [CIEB's profile on Japan's education system](#).