

Bulgaria

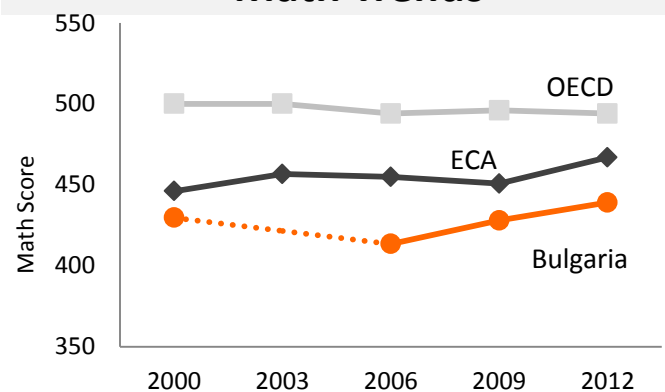
Highlights

- Increase in performance in all three subjects (especially encouraging increase in math).
- The share of functionally innumerate/illiterate has decreased substantially since 2006, and the share of proficient performers has slightly increased for math and reading.
- Despite the good news, Bulgaria's performance is lower than countries that spend less resources per student (e.g. Romania, Serbia).
- Bulgaria outcomes in Math place its students, on average, one year of schooling behind OECD average.
- The difference between urban and rural students is high (equivalent to almost two years of schooling), and the difference between top and bottom 20% (socio-economic) performers equates to almost three years of schooling (while OECD's difference is two years of schooling).
- **Policy Action:** Utilize the school autonomy and per capita financing to target resources and support schools serving poor and rural students
- **Policy Action:** Expand ECD services, especially for the poor.
- **Policy Action:** Delay early tracking of students (after grades 7 and 8) into profiled and vocational schools.

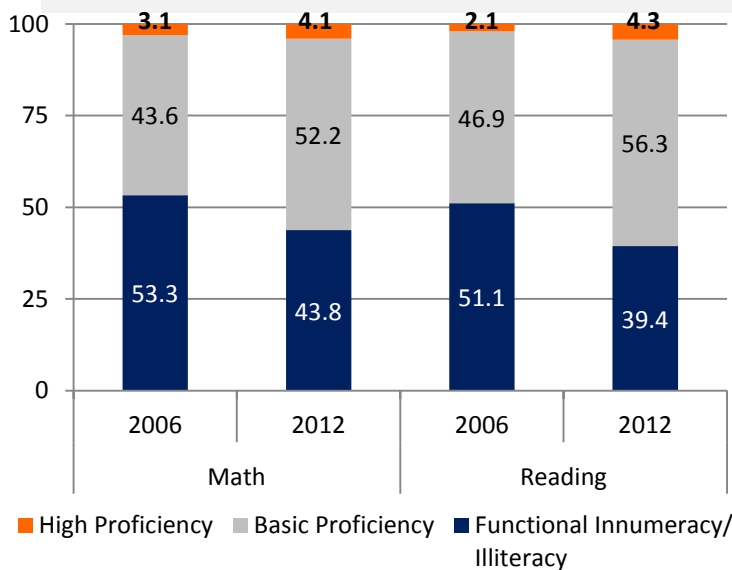
Scores over Time

	Math	Reading	Science
2000	430	430	448
2003	-	-	-
2006	413	402	434
2009	428	429	439
2012	439	436	446

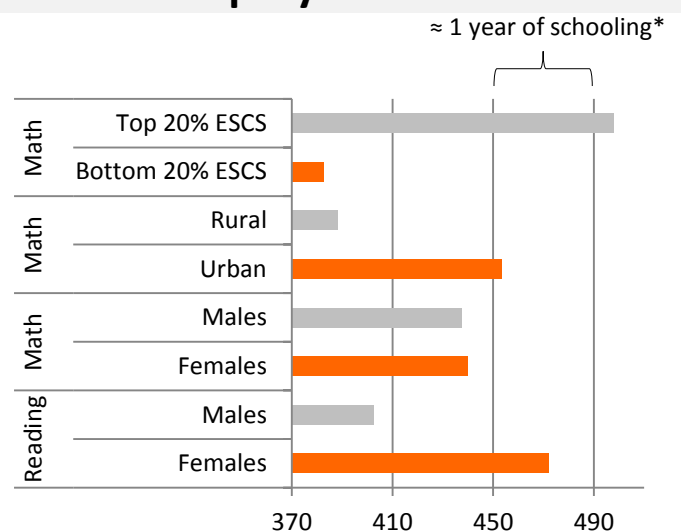
Math Trends



Student Performance



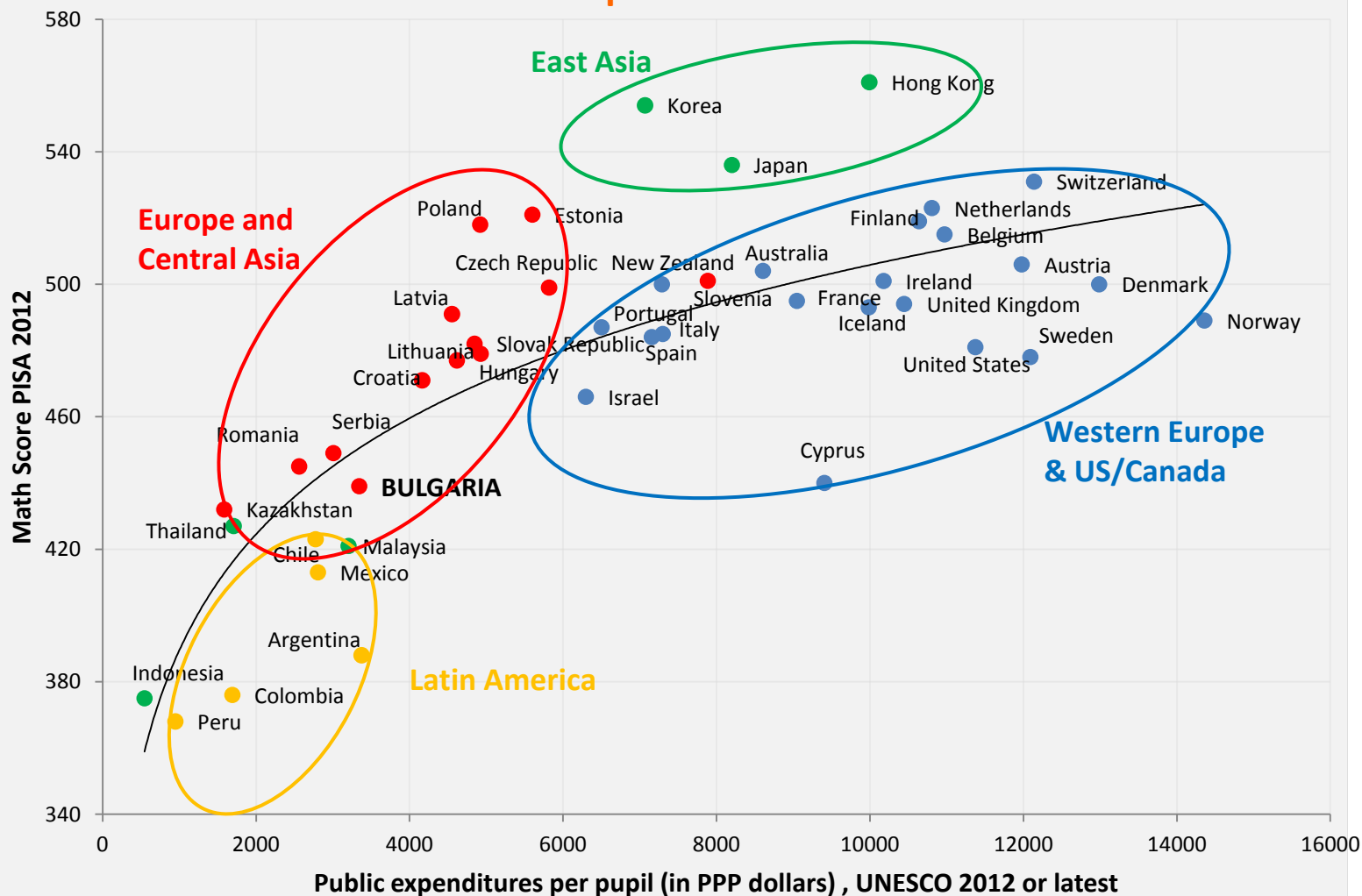
Equity Profile



40 points in PISA scale \approx 1 year of schooling
 ESCS: Economic, Social, and Cultural Status

Bulgaria

PISA Performance and Public Expenditure in Education



WB Relevant Education Engagement

Financing: Social Inclusion Project

Analytical: Programmatic Education Sector TA; Bulgaria Golden Growth Study; “Springboard for School Readiness” impact evaluation of outreach and conditional financial support for preschool enrollment of disadvantaged children.

SABER: Completed: Teachers Policies and School Autonomy and Accountability; Underway: Early Childhood Development; Workforce Development.

About PISA

PISA: Program for International Student Assessment

PISA is the OECD’s benchmarking tool to assess achievement and application of key knowledge and skills of 15 year-olds. PISA tests proficiency in mathematics, reading, science, and problem-solving. In 2012, representative samples from 65 countries (18 ECA client countries) included 510,000 students. PISA was launched in 2000 and is conducted every three years. 40 points in the PISA scales are considered equivalent to one year of schooling. Functionally illiterate and innumerate students are those who do not meet the basic skills in reading and mathematics that are fundamental for their future development.