



Secondary school spend per student, in \$US adjusted for PPP, in 2009 - OECD 'Education At A Glance 2012'.

Thanks to the Gonski Report, how much we spend in schools is the number one issue in education. So, does money buy better education for our children? According to the latest data from the OECD ... No!

According to PISA studies, higher expenditure on education does not guarantee better student performance. Among high income countries, the amount spent on education is less important than how those resources are used.

The countries that are the strongest performers in PISA are not the wealthiest, nor do they allocate more money to education.

- Countries that spend more than \$100,000 USD per student from the age of 6 to 15, such as Luxembourg, Norway and Switzerland, show similar levels of performance as countries that spend less than half that amount.
- New Zealand, a top performer in PISA spends a lower than average amount per student.

After you reach a threshold of about \$35,000 USD per student (in total from ages 6 to 15), the amount you spend is unrelated to performance.

Source: PISA In Focus 13, 2012

In general, the countries that perform well in PISA attract the best students into the teaching profession, by offering them higher salaries and greater professional status.

School systems that invest in higher teachers' salaries tend to have larger class sizes.

At the country level, PISA finds that the size of the class is unrelated to the school system's overall performance.

"Successful school systems in high income economies tend to prioritise the quality of teachers over the size of classes."

"Successful PISA countries do not make struggling students repeat grades, they do not transfer them to other schools, nor do they group students in different classes based on ability."

"School systems that commit themselves, both in resources and in policies, to ensuring that all students succeed, perform better in PISA than systems that tend to separate poor performers or students with behavioural problems or special needs."