



% of time spent learning reading, maths & science for 9-11 year olds / % flexible curriculum, as at 2008 - OECD 'Education at a Glance 2010'

In recent years, Australia's parents have grown increasingly concerned about their children's basic literacy, numeracy & science skills.

South Australia's performance in the NAPLAN tests have exacerbated this concern; with yet another decline revealed in the 2010 test results.

Parents are concerned that SA's public schools don't focus enough time or resources on basic skills.

OECD data confirms parent fears, showing that Australia devotes less class time to 'the basics' than any other country.

The OECD average for time spent teaching reading, writing and literature, mathematics and science has increased slightly in the last year to:

- 48% of the compulsory instruction time for 9-11 year-olds
- 40% for 12-14 year-olds.
- In 2009, Australia devoted just 25% of time to the basics - the lowest in the OECD and nearly half the average.

Australia seems not to have supplied data for the 2010 OECD report, however with Australia's flexible curriculum still staggeringly high, it's clear the amount of time our children spend learning the basics has not improved; remaining the lowest in the OECD.

- OECD average spent on reading & writing was 23% of class time.
- Australia's 2009 rate was 13%.
- OECD average spent on maths is 16% of class time.
- Australia's 2009 rate was 9%.
- OECD average spent on science is 9% of class time.
- Australia's 2009 rate was 3%.

Converse to compulsory curriculum times, is 'flexible curriculum':

- The OECD average for flexible curriculum is 4%.
- Australia's flexible curriculum is 57% - the highest in OECD.