



Foreword

The OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) represents a commitment by governments to monitor student achievement within an internationally agreed framework. In the decade since its first report was issued, PISA has become the most comprehensive and rigorous student assessment programme in the world. The countries participating in PISA together make up close to 90% of the global economy.

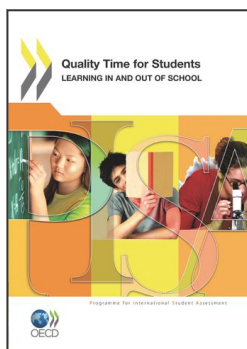
PISA 2006 focused on science literacy, although students' skills in mathematics and reading were also assessed. This report uses data from PISA 2006 to investigate the relationship between time spent in deliberate learning activities and student performance in school. While students acquire knowledge in myriad ways, the activities studied in this report are limited to school classes, after-school classes, and independent study or homework. As the report ultimately shows, the number of hours spent learning only partly influences performance in school; the quality of learning time is just as, if not more, important than the quantity.

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