

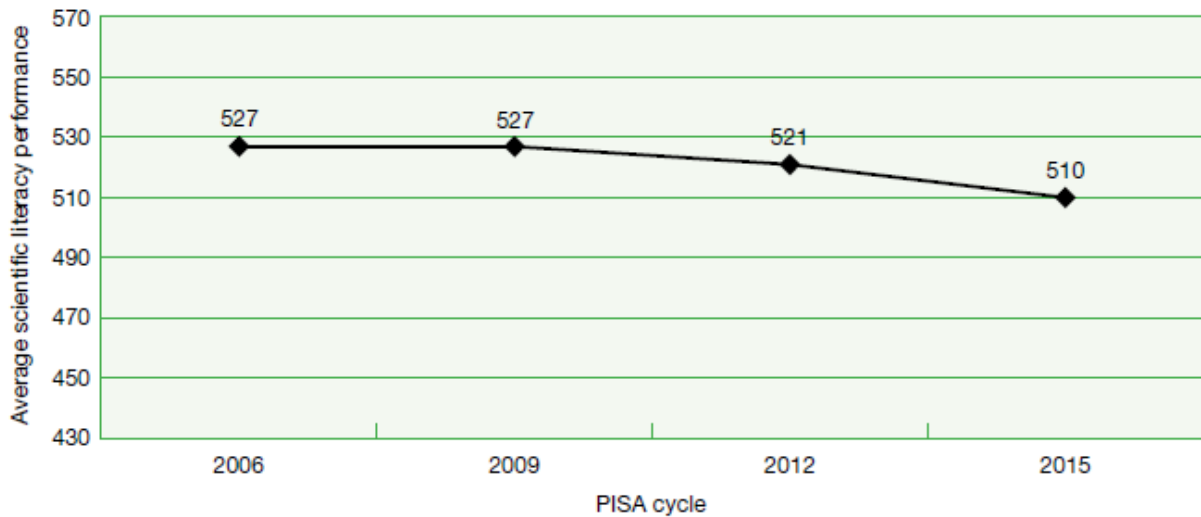
HOW AUSTRALIA'S INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS SECTOR RATED IN PISA 2015

7 December 2016

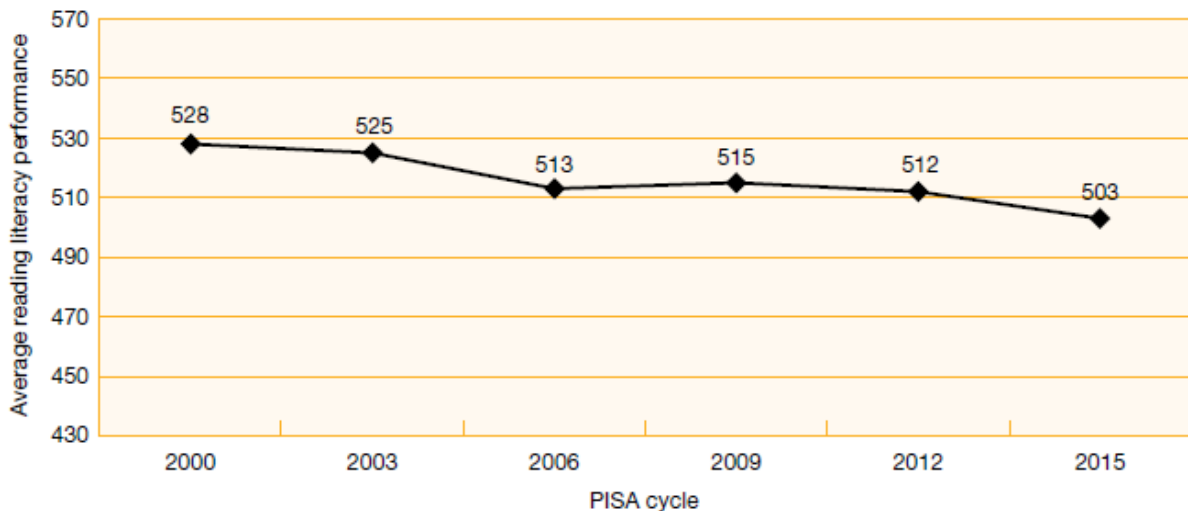
Background

Australia's [country report](#) for the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2015 was released late on 6 December 2016, with the decline in Australia's results the subject of media and 'expert' commentary. The federal Minister for Education, Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham issued a [media release](#) calling for cooperation to address the decline.

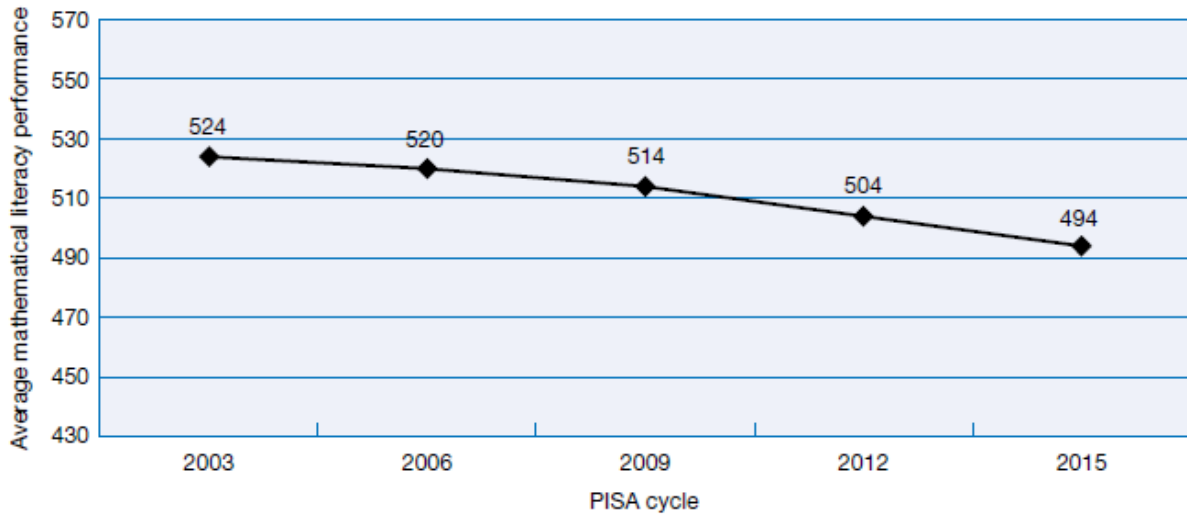
Since 2006, Australia's average national score in scientific literacy has fallen by 17 points:



Since 2003, Australia's average national score in reading literacy has fallen by 25 points:

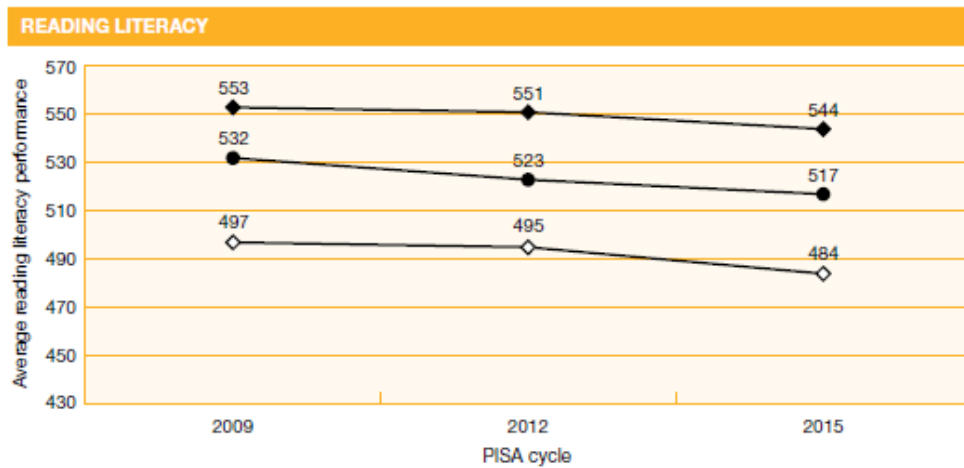
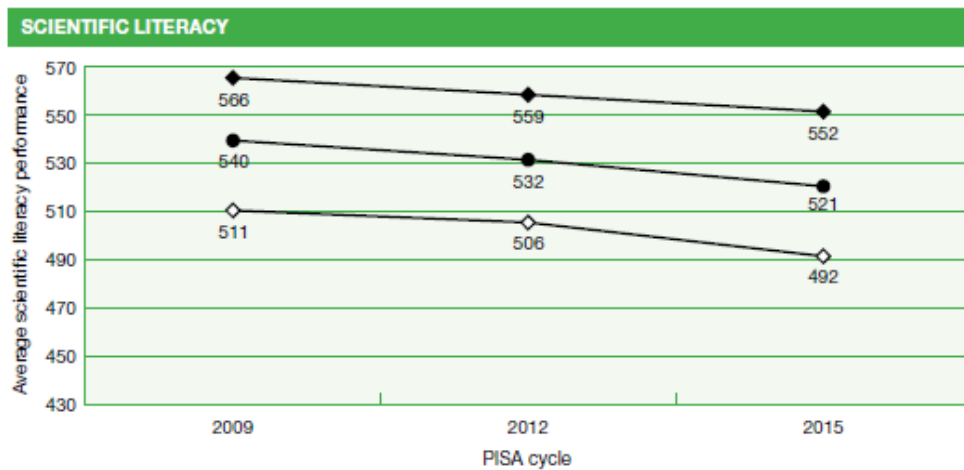


Australia's average national score in mathematical literacy has fallen 30 points since 2003:



The country report also shows the decline since 2009 by school sector:

◆ Independent ● Catholic ◇ Government



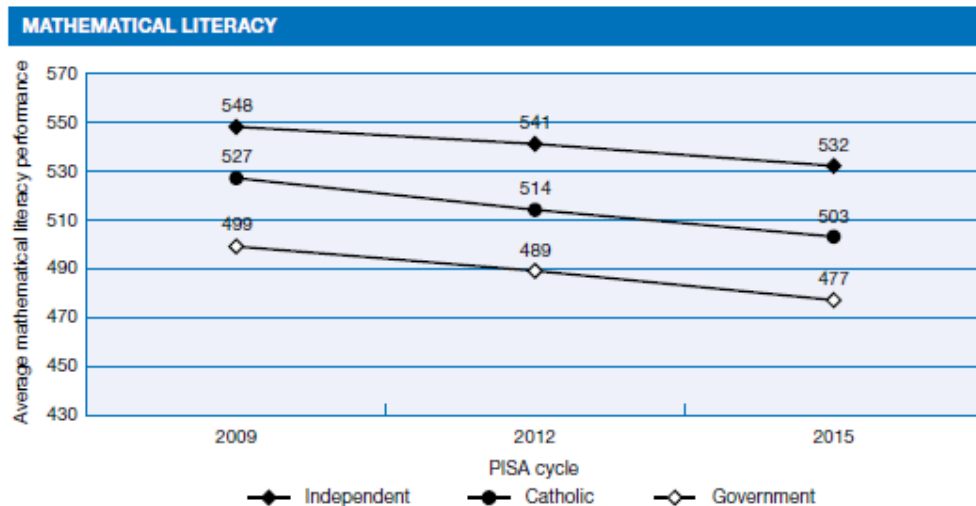


FIGURE 7.1 Average students' performance for scientific, reading and mathematical literacy over time, by school sector (unadjusted for student- and school-level socioeconomic background)

Results for the Australian independent sector

While the overall decline in the achievement of Australian students is of concern, there is evidence of a drop in performance across the OECD. In 2015, AHISA published an [infographic](#), 'Australian independent schools are top performers', highlighting the performance of independent schools against the PISA country rankings. In 2015, we have held #2 ranking in scientific literacy, moved up to #1 in reading literacy and moved up to #5 in mathematical literacy.

This upward movement in ranking in spite of a decline in mean performance score is due to an expansion of the number of regions in China participating as one block in PISA 2015, replacing Shanghai (China). In PISA 2012 Shanghai (China) scored significantly above all other countries and economies and was ranked #1 in all domains.

Tables illustrating the Australian independent sector's ranking in each domain are set out in the following pages.

PISA 2015		
SCIENTIFIC LITERACY		
Average scores for countries/economies		
	2015	2012
Singapore	556	551
AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS #2	552	559 #2
Japan	538	547
Estonia	534	541
Chinese Taipei	532	523
Finland	531	545
Macao (China)	529	521
Canada	528	525
Vietnam	525	528
Hong Kong (China)	523	555
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SECTOR	521	532
B-S-J-G (China)*	518	580 #1
Korea	516	538
New Zealand	513	516
Slovenia	513	514
AUSTRALIA average national score #14	510	521
United Kingdom	509	514
Germany	509	524
Netherlands	509	522
Switzerland	506	515
Ireland	503	522
Belgium	502	505
Portugal	501	489
Norway	498	495
United States	496	497
Austria	495	506
France	495	499
Sweden	493	485
OECD average	493	501
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SECTOR	492	506

* B-S-J-G (China) is participating in PISA for the first time in 2015. In previous years Shanghai (China) was the participating economy. The 2012 result for Shanghai (China) is shown against B-S-J-G (China) but is not comparable to the 2015 result. In 2012 Shanghai (China) scored significantly above all other countries and economies.

PISA 2015		
READING LITERACY		
Average scores for countries/economies		
	2015	2012
AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS #1	544	551 #2
Singapore	535	542
Hong Kong (China)	527	545
Canada	527	523
Finland	526	524
Ireland	521	523
Estonia	519	516
Korea	517	536
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SECTOR	517	523
Japan	516	538
Norway	513	504
New Zealand	509	512
Germany	509	508
Macao (China)	509	509
Poland	506	518
Slovenia	505	481
Netherlands	503	511
AUSTRALIA average national score #16	503	512
Sweden	500	483
Denmark	500	496
France	499	505
Belgium	499	509
Portugal	498	488
United Kingdom	498	499
Chinese Taipei	497	523
United States	497	498
Spain	496	488
Russian Federation	495	475
B-S-J-G (China)*	494	570 #1
OECD average	493	496
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SECTOR	484	495

* B-S-J-G (China) is participating in PISA for the first time in 2015. In previous years Shanghai (China) was the participating economy. The 2012 result for Shanghai (China) is shown against B-S-J-G (China) but is not comparable to the 2015 result. In 2012 Shanghai (China) scored significantly above all other countries and economies.

PISA 2015		
MATHEMATICAL LITERACY		
Average scores for countries/economies		
	2015	2012
Singapore	564	573
Hong Kong (China)	548	561
Macao (China)	544	538
Chinese Taipei	542	560
Japan	532	536
AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS equal #5	532	541 #6
B-S-J-G (China)*	531	613 #1
Korea	524	554
Switzerland	521	531
Estonia	520	521
Canada	516	518
Netherlands	512	523
Denmark	511	500
Finland	511	519
Slovenia	510	501
Belgium	507	515
Germany	506	514
Poland	504	518
Ireland	504	501
Norway	502	489
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SECTOR	502	514
Austria	497	506
New Zealand	495	500
Vietnam	495	511
Russian Federation	494	482
Sweden	494	478
AUSTRALIA average national score #16	494	504
France	493	495
United Kingdom	492	494
Czech Republic	492	499
Portugal	492	487
OECD average	493	494
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SECTOR	477	489

* B-S-J-G (China) is participating in PISA for the first time in 2015. In previous years Shanghai (China) was the participating economy. The 2012 result for Shanghai (China) is shown against B-S-J-G (China) but is not comparable to the 2015 result. In 2012 Shanghai (China) scored significantly above all other countries and economies.