



Foreword

Education plays a central role in the development of society and fuels a virtuous circle of improvement and growth. Korea has built a well-educated workforce that has propelled the country to the forefront of the global knowledge economy. The importance of education for economic growth and well-being creates high demands on the system. School leaders, teachers and parents expect every student to succeed and students push themselves to exceed those expectations. Correspondingly, teacher recruitment, training and support are focused on building a profession where quality has traditionally been a priority.

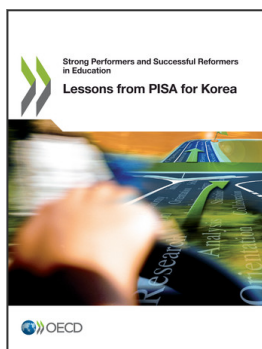
Korea strives to continuously improve its education system. Recent reforms have adjusted the curricula, teaching methods and materials to foster more well-rounded and creative talents in order to be more competitive in a fast-changing world. However, some areas of policy require further attention. Developing skills in response to today's economy and ensuring a smooth school-to-work transition will be key to continued success. Developing skills in response to today's economy and ensuring a smooth school-to-work transition will be key to continued success and Korea needs more effective policy responses to provide equitable education for social cohesion.

The report *Strong Performers and Successful Reformers in Education: Lessons from PISA for Korea* has a twofold purpose. Firstly, the report should help Korea to identify and address education policy challenges from an international perspective. To this end, it assesses the Korean education system through the prism of PISA, considers recent policy developments and suggests specific policy options to foster improvements. It also provides an in-depth analysis of the experience of other high-performing countries and economies, including Finland, Hong Kong (China), Ontario (Canada), Shanghai (China), and Singapore. Secondly, the report should be a useful reference for countries seeking to improve their education systems.

I am grateful to the Korean authorities for their cooperation in the preparation of this report and hope that they will find it of value in better understanding the key ingredients for success, and will gain insights on how to achieve effective reform.

Barbara Ischinger

Director for Education and Skills,
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development



From:
Lessons from PISA for Korea

Access the complete publication at:
<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264190672-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2014), "Foreword", in *Lessons from PISA for Korea*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264190672-1-en>

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

You can copy, download or print OECD content for your own use, and you can include excerpts from OECD publications, databases and multimedia products in your own documents, presentations, blogs, websites and teaching materials, provided that suitable acknowledgment of OECD as source and copyright owner is given. All requests for public or commercial use and translation rights should be submitted to rights@oecd.org. Requests for permission to photocopy portions of this material for public or commercial use shall be addressed directly to the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) at info@copyright.com or the Centre français d'exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at contact@cfcopies.com.