

Table 1: Rank Positions and Average Achievement of Education Systems in PIRLS 2001 and PIRLS 2006






PIRLS 2006			PIRLS 2001		
Rank Position	Education System	Average Achievement Score	Rank Position	Education System	Average Achievement Score
1	Russian Federation	565	1	Sweden	561
2	Hong Kong SAR	564	2	Netherlands	554
3	Canada, Alberta	560	3	England	553
4	Singapore	558	4	Bulgaria	550
5	Canada, British Columbia	558	5	Latvia	545
6	Luxembourg	557	6	Canada (O,Q)	544
7	Canada, Ontario	555	7	Lithuania	543
8	Italy	551	8	Hungary	543
9	Hungary	551	9	United States	542
10	Sweden	549	10	Italy	541
11	Germany	548	11	Germany	539
12	Netherlands	547	12	Czech Republic	537
13	Belgium (Flemish)	547	13	New Zealand	529
14	Bulgaria	547	14	Scotland	528
15	Denmark	546	15	Singapore	528
16	Canada, Nova Scotia	542	16	Russian Federation	528
17	Latvia	541	17	Hong Kong, SAR	528
18	United States	540	18	France	525
19	England	539	19	Greece	524
20	Austria	538	20	Slovak Republic	518
21	Lithuania	537	21	Iceland	512
22	Chinese Taipei	535	22	Romania	512
23	Canada, Quebec	533	23	Israel	509
24	New Zealand	532	24	Slovenia	502
25	Slovak Republic	531		International Average	500
26	Scotland	527	25	Norway	499
27	France	522	26	Cyprus	494
28	Slovenia	522	27	Moldova, Rep. of	492
29	Poland	519	28	Turkey	449
30	Spain	513	29	Macedonia, Rep. of	442
31	Israel	512	30	Colombia	422
32	Iceland	511	31	Argentina	420
	International Average	500	32	Iran, Islamic Rep. of	414
33	Moldova, Rep. of	500	33	Kuwait	396
34	Belgium (French)	500	34	Morocco	350
35	Norway	498	35	Belize	327
36	Romania	489			
37	Georgia	471			
38	Macedonia, Rep. of	442			
39	Trinidad and Tobago	436			
40	Iran, Islamic Rep. of	421			
41	Indonesia	405			
42	Qatar	353			
43	Kuwait	330			
44	Morocco	323			
45	South Africa	302			


Table 2: Rank Positions of Education Systems which Tested in English in PIRLS 2006

PIRLS 2006		
Rank Position	Education System	Also Tested in
3	Canada, Alberta	French^
4	Singapore	--
5	Canada, British Columbia	French^
7	Canada, Ontario	French^
16	Canada, Nova Scotia	French^
18	United States	--
19	England	--
23	Canada, Quebec	French^
24	New Zealand	Maori^
26	Scotland	--
39	Trinidad and Tobago	--
45	South Africa	10 other languages^

^ In four of the Canadian provinces (Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario and Nova Scotia) and New Zealand, more than 95% of pupils took the test in English, whereas in the Canadian province of Quebec and South Africa, 11% and 23% of pupils took the test in English respectively.

Table 3: Trends in Reading Achievement by Percentiles

	5 th Percentile (score at or below which the bottom 5% of pupils attained)	25 th Percentile (score at or below which the bottom 25% of pupils attained)	50 th Percentile (score at or below which half of pupils attained)	75 th Percentile (score above which the top 25% of pupils attained)	95 th Percentile (score above which the top 5% of pupils attained)
PIRLS 2006	420	512	565	612	672
PIRLS 2001	348	479	540	592	658
Increase	72 	33 	25 	20 	14 

 indicates that the increase was statistically significant.