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Benchmarking Internationally: The Need Confronts the Reality

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ABSTRACT

The competition for jobs and talent among nations has intensified over the last decade. Together, skills and technology have flattened the world such that work that can be digitized, automated, or outsourced can now be done by the most effective and competitive individuals, enterprises, or countries, wherever they are. As a result, many countries have significantly raised the bar for student achievement. These countries recognize that relevant education standards are no longer only those of the city or state next door but those achieved by the best-performing systems worldwide. The presentation will start with an assessment of changes in the global talent pool. Based on new analyses from OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), it will then examine where the United States and other countries stand in terms of educational performance. More importantly, it will highlight what the best performing education systems show can be achieved in terms of the quality of learning outcomes, equity in the distribution of learning opportunities, and efficiency in the management of education.

No paper was submitted for publication.

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