

# Mathematicians Work on Education Policy: Perspectives and Examples

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- Policy Topics of Concern

# Overview

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- Examples of Involvement

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- Concluding Remarks

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Key question: **Are your country's students prepared for the global workforce?**

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- **How can your country be sure that there are enough well-qualified math teachers?**
- **How can your country retain well-qualified math teachers?**

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**Mathematicians must be involved in public policy if such changes are to take place.**

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- ② Support wise use of exams.
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- ④ Serve on granting agency review panels and advisory panels.



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There are also some op-eds that challenge the math community (e.g. one stating that high school algebra should not be required for graduation or college).

# My LA Times Op-Ed

The latest international test scores of 15-year-olds are in, and the results are appalling. The Program for International Student Assessment, or PISA, found that the United States – the most affluent country in the world – failed to rank in the top 20 in any category. In math – the subject most critical for careers in high-paying science, technology and engineering fields – slightly more than a quarter of U.S. students scored below baseline proficiency.

But we shouldn't have been surprised. This year's scores were comparable to results over the last decade, leading Education Secretary Arne Duncan to describe a “picture of educational stagnation.”

That could change. Forty-five states, including California, are implementing the Common Core learning standards, a high-quality foundation for math and English-language arts instruction developed by the nation's governors and education commissioners. But will the new standards raise student achievement? The answer depends on implementation. The keys to implementation are textbooks, teachers and testing. Getting any one of these wrong will leave our young people even further behind....

# A Suggestion

Individuals in this room, including teams from different countries, can write op-eds to increase the visibility of math education issues throughout the Americas.

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Public education policy is influenced by many groups: politicians, education specialists, teachers, advocates for disciplines.

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**If we do not support mathematics, then no one else will.**