

## Foreword

**E**ducation at a Glance 2012: Highlights offers a reader-friendly introduction to the OECD's collection of internationally comparable data on education.

As the name suggests, it is derived from Education at a Glance 2012, the OECD's flagship compendium of education statistics. However, it differs from that publication in a number of ways, most significantly in its structure, which is made up of five sections that explore the following topics:

- **Education levels and student numbers:** This section looks at education levels in the general population, how and where young people are studying and how well they make the transition into the world of work.
- **The economic and social benefits of education:** This section looks at the extent to which education brings economic gains to individuals, in the form of higher incomes and lower unemployment rates, and at how these benefits serve as an incentive for people and societies to invest in education. It also examines the societal benefits related to having a highly educated population.
- **Paying for education:** This section looks at how much countries spend on education, the role of private spending, what education money is spent on and whether countries are getting value for money.
- **The school environment:** This section looks at how much time teachers spend at work, and how much of that time is spent teaching, class sizes, teachers' salaries and the age and gender distribution of teachers.
- **Equity:** This special section looks at issues relating to equity in education, particularly the accessibility of education at all levels, intergenerational mobility, gender gaps in education and the impact of socio-economic background on student performance, especially for the children of immigrants.

In general, this publication uses the terminology employed in Education at a Glance 2012. However, in one or two places terminology has been simplified. Readers who want to find out more should consult the "Reader's Guide".

Tables and figures in this volume are accompanied by a dynamic hyperlink, or StatLink, that will direct readers to an Internet site where the corresponding data are available in Excel<sup>TM</sup> format. In addition, reference is sometimes made in the text to figures and tables that appear in Education at a Glance 2012. This material can generally be accessed via the StatLinks accompanying the tables and figures in the relevant indicator, or at [www.oecd.org/edu/eag2012](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2012).

Readers wishing to find out more about the OECD's work on education should go to [www.oecd.org/edu](http://www.oecd.org/edu).



**From:**  
**Education at a Glance 2012**  
Highlights

**Access the complete publication at:**  
[https://doi.org/10.1787/eag\\_highlights-2012-en](https://doi.org/10.1787/eag_highlights-2012-en)

**Please cite this chapter as:**

OECD (2012), "Foreword", in *Education at a Glance 2012: Highlights*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1787/eag\\_highlights-2012-1-en](https://doi.org/10.1787/eag_highlights-2012-1-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](mailto: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](mailto:info@copyright.com) or the Centre français d'exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at [contact@cfcopies.com](mailto:contact@cfcopies.com).