

## **Information on proficiency levels for Indicators on Top Performers and Low-Achieving students**

### **Reading**

Proficiency Level 6: Students can make multiple inferences, comparisons and contrasts from texts and must demonstrate a full and detailed understanding of one or more texts.

Proficiency Level 5: Students can locate and organise several pieces of deeply embedded information, critically evaluate texts, and have a detailed understanding of texts whose content or form is unfamiliar.

Below Proficiency Level 2: Students can locate one or more pieces of explicitly stated information and recognise the main theme of a text. There is little, if any, competing information.

### **Mathematics**

Proficiency Level 6: Students can apply mathematical concepts and operations to solve unfamiliar problems and can communicate precisely how they arrived at a solution.

Proficiency Level 5: Students can select, compare and evaluate appropriate problem-solving strategies to deal with complex problems and can formulate and communicate their reasoning.

Below Proficiency Level 2: Students can identify information and carry out routine, obvious procedures according to direct instructions in explicit situations.

### **Science**

Proficiency Level 6: Students can consistently identify, explain and apply scientific knowledge – and knowledge about science – in a variety of complex life situations.

Proficiency Level 5: Students can identify the scientific components of many complex life situations and can compare, select and evaluate appropriate scientific evidence for responding to these situations.

Below Proficiency Level 2: Students have limited scientific knowledge that can only be applied in a few, familiar situations, and they present obvious scientific explanations that follow directly from given evidence.

A detailed description of Proficiency Levels in Reading, Mathematics and Science can be found at: page 47, 130 and page 147 of OECD (2010), PISA 2009 Results: What Students Know and Can Do – Student Performance in Reading, Mathematics and Science (Volume I <http://www.oecd.org/pisa/pisaproducts/48852548.pdf>)