

Education and social mobility in Singapore

Already very good



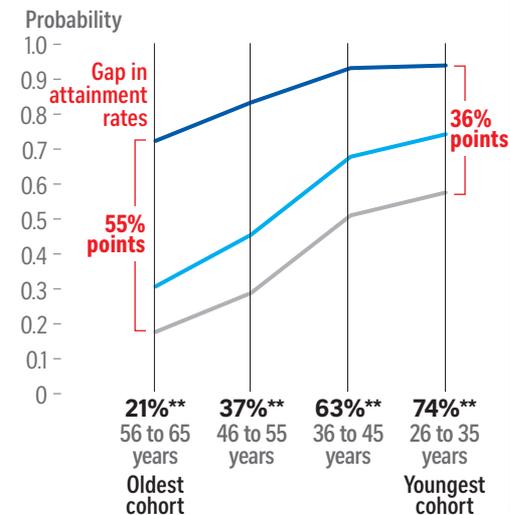
Upwardly mobile

6 in 10 adults (aged 26-65) are better qualified than their parents, higher than the average of 4 in 10.

Gap in getting either a degree or diploma between adults with tertiary-educated* parents and those with less-educated parents has narrowed considerably.

Level of parents' education:

- High (at least one parent with tertiary level)
- Middle (at least one parent with upper secondary level)
- Low (neither parent with upper secondary level)



World beaters

SINGAPORE



AVERAGE



Around 1 in 2 15-year-olds from the lowest socio-economic quarter is ranked among the top quarter of their international peers, higher than the average of around 1 in 3.



Competent

More than 4 in 10 15-year-olds from the lowest socio-economic quarter have core maths, reading and science skills — third-best in the world.

Can do better



Mix across schools

Concentration of disadvantaged kids in certain schools has gone up slightly, from 41 per cent in 2009 to 46 per cent in 2015, although this is still comparable to international average.

Ministry of Education (MOE) says:

- All schools are well resourced.
- Schemes to ensure diverse mix, such as reserving places for non-affiliated pupils in primary schools.
- Ensure social mixing through joint school camps.



Tougher climb to the top

1 in 10 disadvantaged students makes it to the top quarter within Singapore. While comparable to 41 other economies, it is lower than in 24 other systems, including Hong Kong and Finland.

MOE says:

- Top-quarter performance within each system is different, and in Singapore, the bar is high.

NOTE: *Tertiary covers bachelor's degrees and polytechnic diplomas

**Percentage of adults completing tertiary education

Sources: OECD, MOE STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS