

**"The incentive effects of standardized tests:
An econometric analysis with data from PISA 2000 and PISA 2009"**

Abstract:

Since their first implementation in 2000, the PISA studies have attracted public attention and raised requests for institutional changes in schooling systems. One popular change is the implementation of standardized student tests. This paper examines the effect of these tests, in particular in combination with school comparisons and teacher evaluations. Identification is based on within-country variation between PISA 2000 and PISA 2009. The results indicate that comparing schools by means of standardized student test results is a promising measure, while evaluating teachers this way decreases the overall performance of a schooling system. The discussion provides possible explanations for these ambiguous findings.