

Activity 9: To Change or Not to Change

PURPOSE Analyze a set of data and prepare a proposal based on the results.

GROUPING Work individually.

GETTING STARTED There has been a great deal of debate in recent years about the need to lengthen the school day or to extend the school year for students in the United States. What's your opinion?

The following table contains data on the average mathematics scores on the International Assessment of Educational Progress for 13 year-old students in various countries. It also includes information on the length of the school year and the length of the school day in each country.

Country	Average Percent Correct	Average Days of Instruction per Year	Average Minutes of Instruction per School Day
Canada	62	188	304
Emilia-Romagna, Italy	64	204	289
France	64	174	370
Hungary	68	177	223
Ireland	61	173	323
Israel	63	215	278
Jordan	40	191	260
Korea	73	222	264
Scotland	61	191	324
Slovenia	57	190	248
Soviet Union	70	198	243
Spain	55	188	285
Switzerland	71	207	305
Taiwan	73	222	318
United States	55	178	338

Source: Educational Testing Service, Learning Mathematics, Feb. 1992.

Use the statistical concepts you have studied to organize and analyze the data in the table. Based on the results, prepare a report recommending what changes, if any, should be made in the length of the school year and the school day for students in the United States. Whenever appropriate, use averages and statistical displays to support and clarify your position.