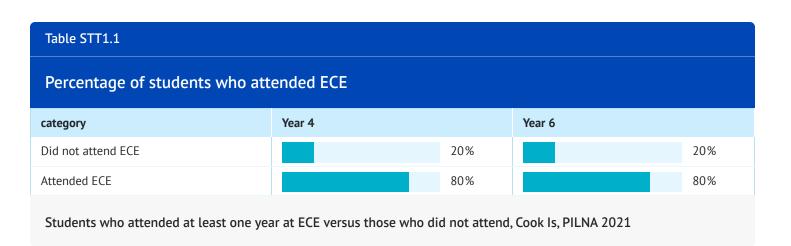
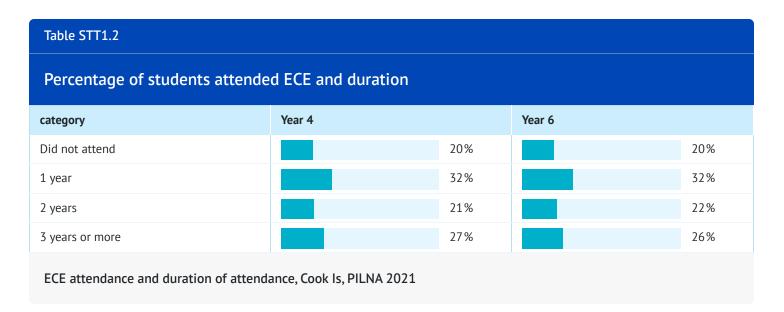




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## Early childhood education





## What does this mean?

Most students (80%) who participated in PILNA 2021 attended ECE for at least one year. Similar proportions were observed across year four and year six students, showing ECE attendance rates were stable over time.

Student performance tended to be higher for year six students who had attended ECE than for those who had not. For year four students, the inverse was observed, with those who had attended ECE having lower levels of achievement than those who had not attended ECE. It is not known why differences were found for year six students and not year four students. The regional findings suggest the possibility that ECE has a positive effect on performance, which may only become noticeable in later years of schooling. Given the diversity of ECE throughout the region, these results should be looked at and further studied in local contexts.