

Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) The Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS)

Grades/Students

Samples of students at selected schools in grades 4 and 8

Date

Administered April – May.

Description

TIMSS and PIRLS are international assessments that are used to compare the international standing of student achievement in mathematics, science, and reading. Both assessments are conducted by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA).

TIMSS focuses on mathematics and science in fourth and eighth grades; it is administered once every four years. The curriculum frameworks for the assessments were designed by educational experts from the participating countries.

PIRLS measures trends in reading comprehension of literary and informational text in fourth grade; it is administered once every five years. Primarily, the assessment focuses on the process of comprehension, purpose of reading, and reading behaviors and attitudes as it relates to students' home and school experience in learning to read.

Results

The data reported are representative of the nation as whole; therefore, scores are not available for states, districts, schools, or for individual students. Only group statistics are reported, aggregated nationally and by demographic subgroups. Achievement results from TIMSS and PIRLS are reported by the National Center for Education Statistics as overall scale scores and subscale scores.

Basis of Test

International and Federal Mandate.

Website

TIMSS

<http://www.timss.org> (international)

<http://nces.ed.gov/timss> (national)

PIRLS

<http://timss.bc.edu/pirls2011/index.html> (international)

<http://nces.ed.gov/Surveys/PIRLS/> (national)

Local Contact

Student Assessment and Educational Testing

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