

# **TIMSS and PIRLS**

## **2011**

### **Progress Report**

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Boston College

52<sup>nd</sup> IEA General Assembly  
October 2011, Dublin



**TIMSS & PIRLS**  
International Study Center  
Lynch School of Education, Boston College

# Since last General Assembly...

## Two major accomplishments:

- **Data Collection completed**
  - Southern Hemisphere: Oct-Dec
  - Northern Hemisphere: March-June
- **International Reports underway**



# TIMSS 4<sup>th</sup> Grade - Participants

Armenia  
Australia  
Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Bahrain  
Belgium Fl.  
Botswana  
Chile  
Chinese Taipei  
Croatia  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
England  
Finland  
Georgia  
Germany  
Honduras  
Hong Kong SAR

Hungary  
Iran, Islamic Rep. of  
Ireland  
Italy  
Japan  
Kazakhstan  
Korea, Rep. of  
Kuwait  
Lithuania  
Malta  
Morocco  
Netherlands  
New Zealand  
Northern Ireland  
Norway  
Oman  
Poland  
Portugal

Qatar  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Saudi Arabia  
Serbia  
Singapore  
Slovak Republic  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Thailand  
Tunisia  
Turkey  
United Arab Emirates  
United States  
Yemen

## **Benchmarking Participants**

*Alberta, Canada  
Ontario, Canada  
Quebec, Canada  
Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Dubai, UAE  
Florida, US  
North Carolina, US*





# TIMSS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade - Participants

Armenia

Australia

Bahrain

Botswana

Chile

Chinese Taipei

England

Finland

Georgia

Ghana

Honduras

Hong Kong SAR

Hungary

Indonesia

Iran, Islamic

Rep.

Israel

Italy

Japan

Jordan

Kazakhstan

Korea, Rep. of

Lebanon

Lithuania

Macedonia

Malaysia

Morocco

New Zealand

Norway

Oman

Palestinian Nat'l Auth.

Qatar

Romania

Russian Federation

Saudi Arabia

Singapore

Slovenia

South Africa

Sweden

Syrian Arab Republic

Thailand

Tunisia

Turkey

Ukraine

United Arab Emirates

United States

## **Benchmarking Participants**

*Alberta, Canada*

*Ontario, Canada*

*Quebec, Canada*

*Abu Dhabi, UAE*

*Dubai, UAE*

*Alabama, US*

*California, US*

*Colorado, US*

*Connecticut, US*

*Florida, US*

*Indiana, US*

*Massachusetts, US*

*Minnesota, US*

*North Carolina, US*



# PIRLS 4<sup>th</sup> Grade - Participants

Australia  
Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Belgium (French)  
Botswana *prePIRLS*  
Bulgaria  
Canada  
Chinese Taipei  
Colombia *also prePIRLS*  
Croatia  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
England  
Finland  
France  
Georgia  
Germany  
Honduras  
Hong Kong SAR  
Hungary

Indonesia  
Iran  
Ireland  
Israel  
Italy  
Kuwait  
Lithuania  
Malta  
Morocco  
Netherlands  
New Zealand  
Northern Ireland  
Norway  
Oman  
Poland  
Portugal  
Qatar  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Saudi Arabia

Singapore  
Slovak Republic  
Slovenia  
South Africa *prePIRLS*  
Spain  
Sweden  
Trinidad & Tobago  
United Arab Emirates  
United States

## **Benchmarking Participants**

*Alberta, Canada*  
*Ontario, Canada*  
*Quebec, Canada*  
*Maltese – Malta*  
*Eng/Afr – RSA (5<sup>th</sup>)*  
*Andalusia, Spain*  
*Abu Dhabi, UAE*  
*Dubai, UAE*  
*Florida, USA*



# Data Collection Activities

- Translation and translation verification
  - 215 sets of achievement materials
  - 170 sets of background questionnaires
  - 58 languages
- Layout verification
  - 215 sets of achievement booklets
  - 104 sets of background questionnaires





# Data Collection Activities

- Scoring training
  - Southern Hemisphere
    - Wellington, New Zealand, Nov 2010
  - Northern Hemisphere
    - PIRLS – Rome, Italy, Feb 2011
    - TIMSS – Bangkok, Thailand, Mar 2011
- Operations manuals and software distributed



# International Quality Assurance

- Training for International Quality Control Monitors
  - IEA Secretariat, Amsterdam
    - TIMSS 97 IQCMs; PIRLS 55 IQCMs
  - Southern Hemisphere: September 2010
  - Northern Hemisphere: January 2011
    - 2 training sessions
- Sessions observed
  - TIMSS 4<sup>th</sup> 800; 8<sup>th</sup> 700; PIRLS 750





# Data Processing

- Data submitted to IEA DPC
  - Southern Hemisphere Feb 2011
  - Northern Hemisphere Aug 2011
- Quality checks for 205 assessment populations
  - 150 populations completed and sent to TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center



# Schedule for International Reports

## **TIMSS and PIRLS 2011 Encyclopedias**

- October 2012

## **TIMSS and PIRLS 2011 International Reports**

- December 2012

## **Methods and Procedures (Technical Report)**

- Ongoing now through December 2012

## **TIMSS and PIRLS International Databases**

- February 2013

## **TIMSS and PIRLS Relationships Report**

- October 2013



# TIMSS and PIRLS Encyclopedias

## TIMSS 2011 Encyclopedia: Education Policy and Curriculum in Mathematics and Science

- Overview of education system
- Mathematics curriculum
- Science curriculum
- Instruction in mathematics and science
- Teachers and teacher education
- Monitoring student progress
- Impact of TIMSS





# TIMSS and PIRLS Encyclopedias

## PIRLS 2011 Encyclopedia: Education Policy and Curriculum in Reading

- Language and literacy
- Overview of education system
- Language/reading curriculum
- Reading instruction
- Students with reading difficulties
- Teachers and teacher education
- Monitoring student progress
- Impact of PIRLS





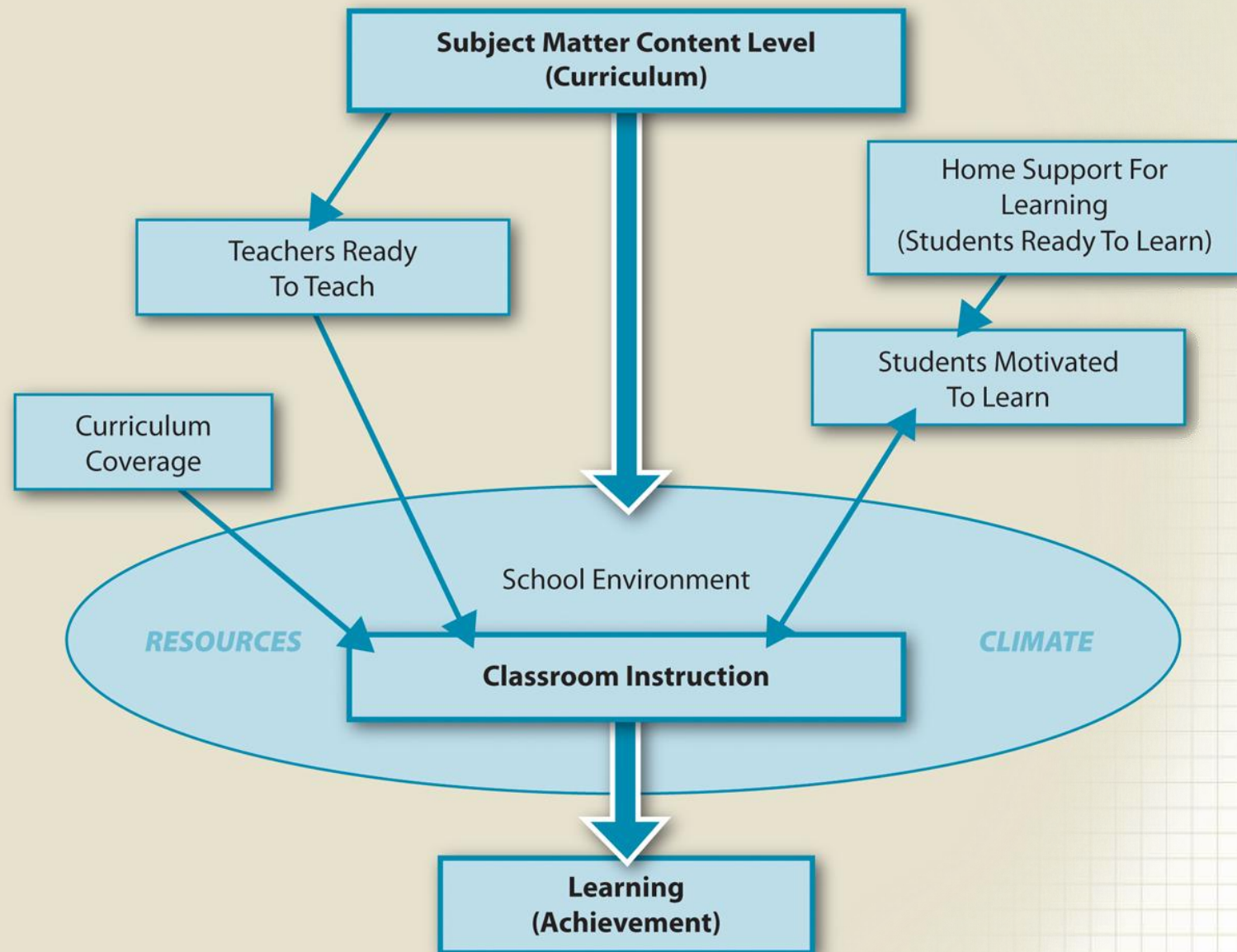
# TIMSS and PIRLS 2011 International Reports

Similar to previous reports, but with enhancements

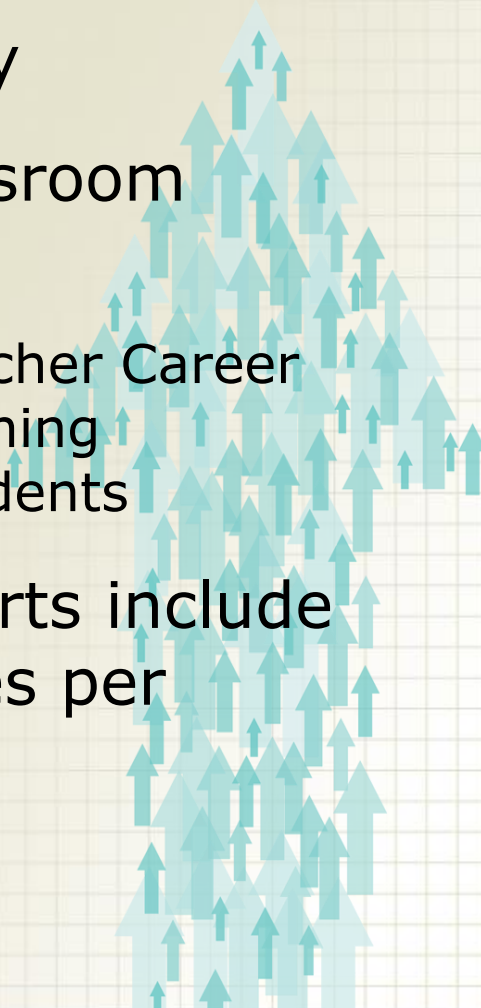
- PIRLS 2011 International Reading Report
- TIMSS 2011 International Mathematics Report
  - Fourth and eighth grades
- TIMSS 2011 International Science Report
  - Fourth and eighth grades



# FRAMING THE TIMSS AND PIRLS 2011 INTERNATIONAL REPORTS



# NEW! Context Questionnaire Scales

- Advance conceptually and empirically
  - IRT scales of home, school, and classroom environments for learning
    - e.g., Home Resources for Learning, Teacher Career Satisfaction, Students Confident in Learning Mathematics, and Teachers Engage Students
  - TIMSS and PIRLS International Reports include about 18 context questionnaire scales per subject per grade
- 



# Interpreting the Context Questionnaire Scales

- As companion to International Achievement Benchmarks, defined high, medium, and low regions on each scale
- New procedure to establish cut points for regions
- Scales mostly based on Likert scale items
  - Agree a lot, Agree, Disagree, Disagree a lot





# Procedure for Establishing Cutpoints

- Cutpoints chosen to correspond to response categories
  - High category: the point on the IRT scale corresponding to “Agree,” on average
  - Low category: the point on the IRT scale corresponding to “Disagree,” on average
- Scale score equivalents of raw scores corresponding to agreeing, on average, and disagreeing, on average



# Students Confident in Learning Mathematics (SCM)

How much do you agree with these statements about mathematics?

	Agree a lot ↓	Agree a little ↓	Disagree a little ↓	Disagree a lot ↓
1) I usually do well in mathematics -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2) Mathematics is more difficult for me than for many of my classmates* -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3) Mathematics is not one of my strengths* -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4) I learn things quickly in mathematics -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5) Mathematics makes me confused and nervous* -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6) I am good at working out difficult mathematics problems -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7) My teacher thinks I can do well in mathematics <programs/classes/lessons> with difficult materials -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8) My teacher tells me I am good at mathematics -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9) Mathematics is harder for me than any other subject* -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* Reverse coded



**Exhibit 8.5: Students Confident in Learning Mathematics (SCM)**

The SCM scale summarizes students' responses to the nine questions shown on the next page. Students who were **Very Confident or Confident** in learning mathematics had a score of at least 10.6, which is the point on the scale corresponding to agreeing a little across the nine statements, on average. Students who were **Not Confident** in learning mathematics had scores no higher than 8.5, which is the point on the scale corresponding to disagreeing a little across the nine statements, on average. All other students were categorized as **Somewhat Confident** in learning mathematics.

Country	Very Confident or Confident		Somewhat Confident		Not Confident		Average SCM Scale Score
	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	
Country 1	42 (0.9)	558 (3.6)	42 (0.8)	473 (3.0)	16 (0.7)	428 (4.6)	10.4 (0.05)
Country 2	40 (1.3)	542 (5.1)	50 (1.1)	475 (3.6)	10 (0.6)	461 (4.4)	10.5 (0.06)
Country 3	40 (1.0)	546 (3.1)	54 (0.9)	474 (2.3)	7 (0.4)	464 (4.6)	10.6 (0.04)
Country 4	37 (1.5)	542 (5.3)	53 (1.0)	476 (3.0)	11 (0.8)	481 (5.0)	10.4 (0.07)
Country 5	36 (0.8)	541 (2.7)	58 (0.7)	479 (1.9)	6 (0.3)	472 (5.2)	10.5 (0.03)
Country 6	34 (1.1)	548 (6.8)	51 (0.9)	477 (2.4)	15 (0.7)	471 (3.4)	10.2 (0.05)
Country 7	33 (1.0)	548 (3.5)	58 (0.8)	479 (2.5)	9 (0.5)	470 (3.3)	10.3 (0.04)
Country 8	32 (1.1)	560 (6.1)	49 (0.8)	483 (3.5)	19 (0.8)	450 (3.8)	10.0 (0.05)
Country 9	30 (0.9)	571 (4.6)	42 (0.7)	483 (4.0)	28 (0.8)	450 (3.8)	9.8 (0.05)
Country 10	30 (0.7)	546 (4.2)	49 (0.7)	491 (4.6)	21 (0.6)	455 (4.2)	9.9 (0.03)
Country 11	29 (0.9)	568 (4.1)	49 (0.8)	483 (2.9)	23 (0.9)	453 (3.0)	9.8 (0.05)
Country 12	26 (0.9)	579 (5.3)	48 (0.8)	477 (2.8)	26 (0.9)	466 (2.2)	9.6 (0.05)
Country 13	24 (0.8)	568 (4.3)	48 (0.7)	486 (2.1)	28 (0.8)	467 (2.5)	9.5 (0.04)
Country 14	11 (0.7)	572 (8.6)	64 (1.0)	493 (4.7)	24 (1.0)	487 (5.1)	9.2 (0.03)
Country 15	9 (0.6)	578 (8.0)	71 (0.8)	492 (4.1)	19 (0.7)	493 (4.3)	9.3 (0.03)



# NEW! Trends in TIMSS Content and Cognitive Domains

- Content domains – algebra, geometry, chemistry, etc.
- Cognitive domains – knowing, applying, and reasoning
- Foundation in 2007 – sufficient items
- New scaling approach in 2011
- Trend measurement in the context of overall trend measurement





# International Reports

## PIRLS 2011 International Reading Report: [Student Learning in Relation to Curriculum, School Environment, Instruction, and Home Support](#)

- International student achievement in reading
- Performance at International Benchmarks
- Achievement for reading purposes and processes
- Home support for learning
- School resources
- School climate
- Teachers ready to teach
- Classroom Instruction



# International Reports

TIMSS 2011 International Mathematics Report

TIMSS 2011 International Science Report

- International student achievement in mathematics/science
- Performance at International Benchmarks
- Achievement in content and cognitive domains
- Home support for learning
- School resources
- School climate
- Teachers ready to teach
- Classroom Instruction
- Curriculum coverage



# Methods and Procedures

## **New!** web-based approach to Technical Report

- Overview
- Instrument development (*posted*)
- Sample design and implementation
- Translation and translation verification (*posted*)
- Operations and quality assurance
- Creating the International Databases
- Scaling the achievement data
- Constructing the context questionnaire scales



# Assessing Same Students in TIMSS and PIRLS 4<sup>th</sup> Grade



Australia  
Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Botswana  
Chinese Taipei  
Croatia  
Czech Republic  
Finland  
Georgia  
Germany  
Honduras  
Hong Kong SAR  
Hungary  
Iran

Ireland  
Italy  
Kuwait  
Lithuania  
Malta  
Morocco  
Northern Ireland  
Norway  
Oman  
Poland  
Portugal  
Qatar  
Romania  
Russian Federation

Saudi Arabia  
Singapore  
Slovak Republic  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
United Arab Emirates

## **Benchmarking Participants**

Quebec, Canada  
Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Dubai, UAE





# TIMSS/PIRLS

## Relationships Report

TIMSS and PIRLS 2011: Relationships among Reading, Mathematics, and Science Achievement—Implications for Early Learning

- Reading, mathematics, and science analyses conducted with same students – controlling extraneous factors
- Apply a variety of modeling techniques (e.g., HLM, SEM) to address important issues
- Analyses conducted country by country, to compare relationships across, as well as within, countries



# TIMSS/PIRLS

## Relationships Report – Issues

- Are primary schools providing a solid foundation in core subjects – reading, mathematics, and science?
  - Profiles and predictors of high-achieving students
- How do homes support literacy and numeracy?
  - Examining paths to higher achievement for boys and girls
  - Resources > activities > skills > achievement
- Are schools more effective in some subjects? What are the characteristics of effective schools in reading, mathematics, and science?
  - School effects, controlling for student home background



# TIMSS/PIRLS

## Relationships Report – Issues

- How does reading ability impact mathematics and science achievement?
  - Doing mathematics and science involve considerable reading and communication – reflected in the TIMSS Framework and assessment items
  - TIMSS items span a range of mathematics reading or science reading demands, from minimal to extensive
  - Implement a coding scheme to classify items into two or three reading demand levels and construct scales for each level
  - Examine relationship between reading achievement and performance on the 4-6 mathematics and science reading demand scales, overall and by gender



# Joint TIMSS/PIRLS NRC Review December 2011 - Vienna, Austria

- Complete set of draft exhibits
  - TIMSS 2011 International Mathematics Report (~125)
  - TIMSS 2011 International Science Report (~125)
  - PIRLS 2011 International Reading Report (~64)
- Context questionnaire exhibits include data for review – home, school, teacher, student
- Draft Encyclopedia exhibits, with curriculum data





# Joint TIMSS/PIRLS NRC Review June 2012 - Singapore

- Final drafts
  - TIMSS 2011 International Mathematics Report
  - TIMSS 2011 International Science Report
  - PIRLS 2011 International Reading Report
- Draft analyses and exhibits for TIMSS/PIRLS Relationships Report
- Confidential preview at General Assembly

***Release International Reports  
December 11, 2012***



# Thank You!

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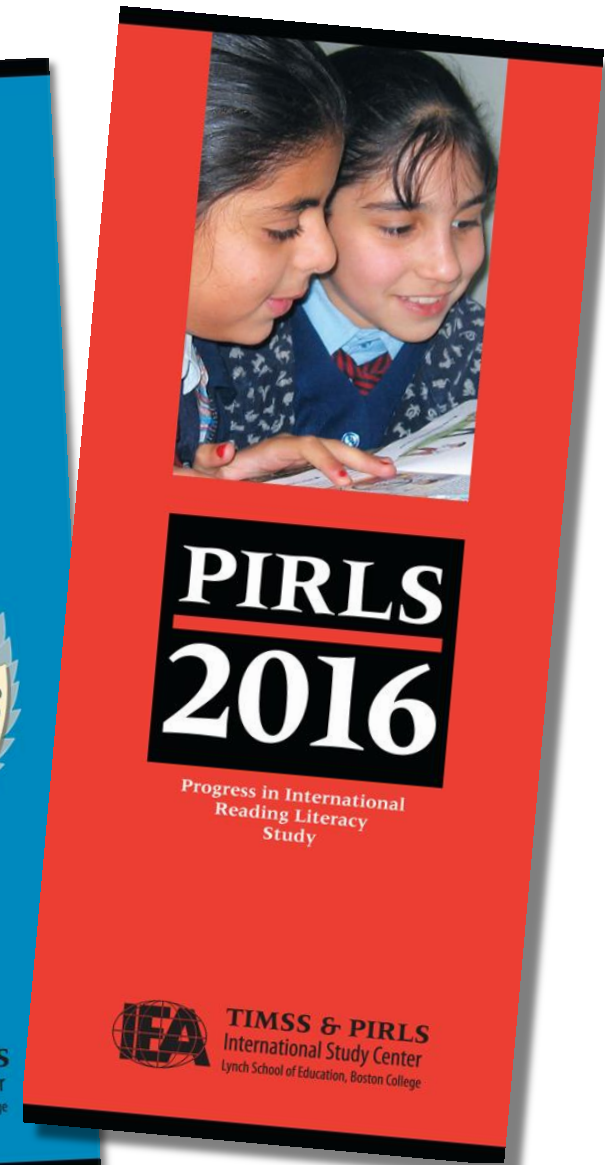
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# Announcing...

- **TIMSS 2015**
- **TIMSS Advanced 2015**
- **PIRLS 2016**
- **prePIRLS 2016**



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# TIMSS 2015— 20 Years of Trend Data

- Fourth and eighth grades
- Mathematics and Science
- Comprehensive frameworks
- Achievement results at International Benchmarks
- Extensive context data: curriculum, school, instruction
- Every four years since 1995





# TIMSS Advanced 2015— Measuring Excellence

- Reunited with TIMSS
- Final year of secondary school
- Advanced mathematics—algebra, calculus, and geometry
- Physics—mechanics, electricity/magnetism, heat/temperature, atomic/nuclear physics
- Policy relevant data on curriculum emphasis, technology use, and teacher preparation and training



**TIMSS**  
*Advanced*  
**2015**



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# PIRLS 2016—Assessing Reading Comprehension

- Fourth grade
- Literary and informational text
- Range of reading comprehension processes
- Achievement results at International Benchmarks
- Home supports for literacy and school environments for learning
- Every five years since 2001—15 years of trends



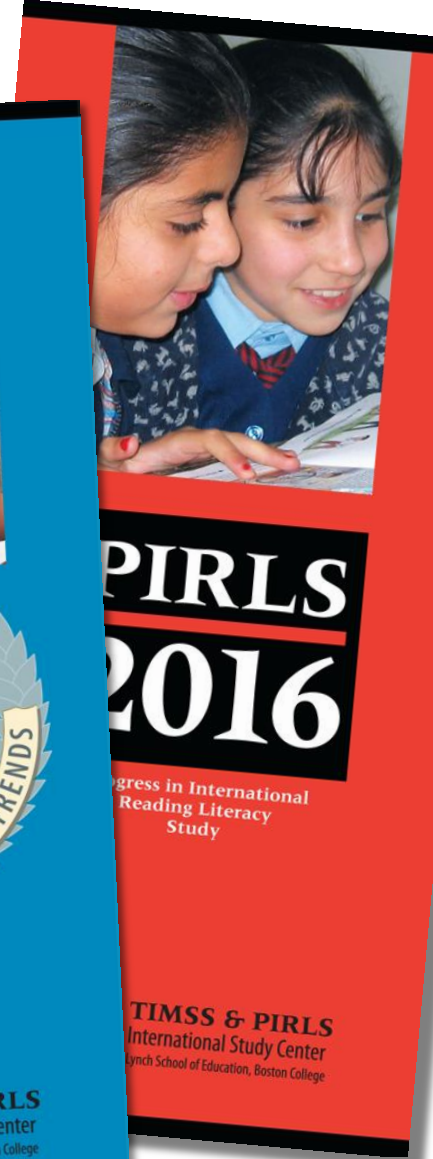
# prePIRLS 2016— Testing Basic Reading Skills

- End of primary school (4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>)
- Same framework and context data as PIRLS
- Less difficult than PIRLS
  - Recognize words and phrases, understand simple sentences
  - Make straightforward inferences
  - Comprehend overall message
- Stepping stone to PIRLS

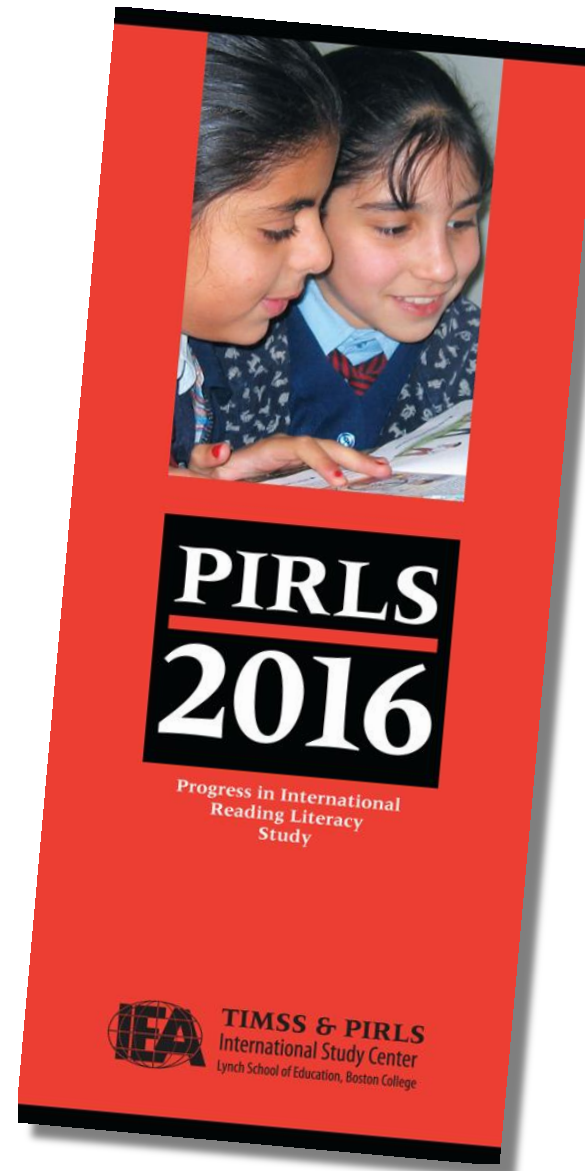
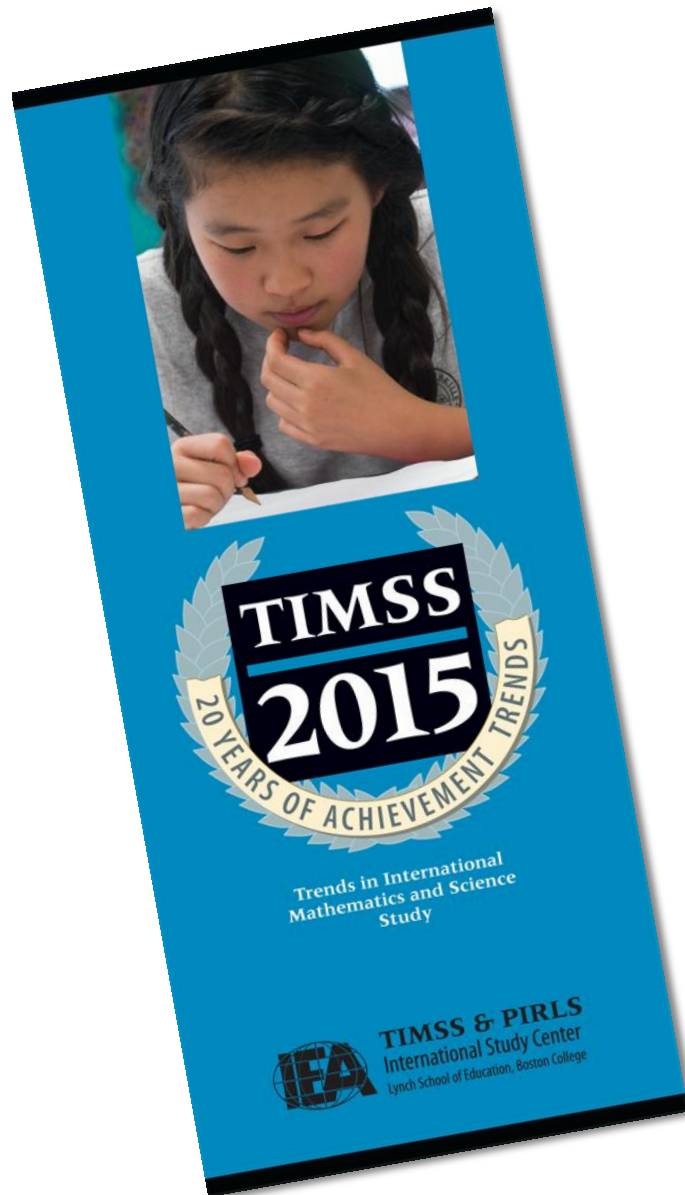


# Benefits

- Monitor trends in global context
- Establish goals and standards for educational improvement
- Stimulate curriculum reform
- Improve teaching and learning
- Conduct related studies, such as monitoring equity, another grade
- Train researchers and teachers in assessment and evaluation
- Improve national assessments







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