

Data Protection Declaration TIMSS 2019 -Student Data

Identity and contact details of controller:

International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA)
Keizersgracht 311
1016 EE Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel.: +31 20 625 3625
Email: secretariat@iea.nl

For which purpose are data collected and processed?

The data collected during the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS 2019) is used exclusively for scientific purposes. TIMSS is an educational research project sponsored by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). The joint controllership over data processing activities shared between national research centers and IEA results in varying national legal bases. While some NRCs rely on “the performance of a task in the public interest” legal basis, the processing activities of IEA are based on legitimate interest of the controller.

Which information is requested?

The students in the participating schools are asked to complete the TIMSS 2019 Assessment either in paper format or as a computer-based assessment with the paper-based Student Questionnaire in order to provide the study with information about students’ gender, age, country of birth, country of birth of their parents/guardians, home resources, language(s) spoken at home, and opinions regarding the school environment as well as mathematics and science lessons.

What kind of data are collected?

Answers to the questions from a student who participates in TIMSS are collected and stored as data in the form of numbers representing selections (for example, a multiple-choice question, or yes/no selection). These are also known as scored responses.

Students who took the computer-based assessment version of TIMSS 2019 (eTIMSS) provide a complete timestamped set of responses to the test items. These responses are stored as raw responses. In addition, process data on navigation behavior and tool use are collected with corresponding timestamps. This navigational and user-interaction data are collected purely for the optimization of measurement purposes.

This information cannot, in and of itself, be used to identify individual respondents by name; however a student ID is recorded to uniquely identify each student. This ID has no connection to any other existing ID-system and is only assigned for the purpose of study administration. The relationship between this ID and the student’s name, or national registration number, is known to the school coordinator and (depending on a

country's data protection policy) may be known to the national center conducting the study. It is not, however, shared with the IEA or any other third parties.

Where, how and for how long are data from TIMSS stored?

TIMSS data are stored securely and cannot be accessed by any external persons or systems. Moreover, any IEA employees who access the data for processing have been suitably briefed on what constitutes an acceptable treatment of data and have signed a confidentiality agreement. Data are processed centrally at the IEA in Hamburg, Germany.

Response data—and if applicable process data—are archived for as long as future cycles of TIMSS studies are conducted so that it remains available for comparative analysis and scientific research purposes. Raw responses which contain text information are masked. These responses and process data eventually result in a database that allows researchers to compare education systems worldwide (see public accessibility below).

With whom and how are data from TIMSS shared?

Response and process data are sent from national research centers to IEA, via a secure FTP server, in pseudonymous form. This ensures that they are processed in such a manner that personal data can no longer be attributed to a specific data subject without the use of additional information (any such additional information being kept separately and subject to technical and organizational measures to ensure that the personal data are not attributed to an identified or identifiable natural person).

TIMSS is directed by the International Study Center (ISC) based at Boston College, USA, and most of the data analyses occur there. Response and process data are required for quality control and analysis. They are sent to the ISC, via a secure FTP server, in pseudonymous form. ISC employees who access the data for analyses have signed a confidentiality agreement. The transfer of the data to the USA, as a third country, is safeguarded by appropriate and suitable measures such as a specific Data Processing Agreement and European Standard Contractual Clauses. The data are also shared back, again over secure FTP server, with the national research centers running TIMSS in a particular country.

Related data

Along with the students, teachers and principals are also asked to complete a questionnaire. Fourth grade students' parents or legal guardians are asked to complete an Early Learning Survey. Information coming from these sources can be linked in the final international research database (IDB).

Public accessibility

The final international research database will be accessible to the public from the following sites:

<https://www.iea.nl/data> (EU)

<https://timssandpirls.bc.edu/index.html> (Boston, USA)

All data in the database are pseudonymized and cannot be linked to individuals without the use of additional information (any such additional information being kept separately and subject to technical and organizational measures to ensure that the personal data are not attributed to an identified or identifiable natural person). All factual identifiers like the number of students per school are removed from the publicly accessible data.

Automated decision-making and profiling

No automated decision-making, including profiling, referred to in Article 22 GDPR is conducted.

Rights of Data Subjects

Data Subjects are entitled to the rights set out in [Articles 15-20 GDPR](#).

Data Subjects have the right to file a complaint with a supervisory authority.

Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens
Bezuidenhoutseweg 30
2594 AV DEN HAAG
Tel: 070-8888 500
Postbus 93374
2509 AJ DEN HAAG
<https://autoriteitpersoonsgegevens.nl/nl>

Contact Data Protection Officer

IEA employs in-house as well as external Data Protection Officers to safeguard your rights as data subject, as well as to ensure the compliance of all data processing activities with the GDPR. For any queries regarding data protection, please contact:

Data Protection Officer (IEA Amsterdam):
Ekaterina Buzkich, MSc LLM
Keizersgracht 311
1016 EE Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Email: dataprotection@iea.nl
Tel.: +31 20 625 3625