

Amsterdam, 21 June 2023

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Call no. IEA 15/06-2023

IEA Research for Education Series: Using IEA PIRLS Data to Understand the Context of Reading Literacy and Learning Internationally

1. Introduction

The International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) invites proposals for creating a report based on secondary analysis of IEA data. The general theme for this report is the area of reading literacy and learning among primary school students internationally as informed by IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS). The deliverable for this project will be an 80- to 150-page book, to be published by Springer as part of IEA's Research for Education Series (see <https://link.springer.com/bookseries/14293>). The book will include, in addition to the main text, tables, graphs, cited references, and relevant appendix materials.

2. Study Background and Objectives

Reading literacy is a fundamental skill that lays the foundation for academic and personal success. It is vital for understanding the world, communicating effectively, and adapting to new information. PIRLS provides a comprehensive assessment of reading literacy among primary school students from various countries and offers insights into factors affecting reading achievement. PIRLS data from 2021 and earlier cycles can serve as a valuable resource for understanding the factors contributing to reading literacy and guiding policy decisions to improve educational outcomes.

3. Possible Substantive Topics

The IEA welcomes proposals that address the topic of international reading literacy from different theoretical, curricular, and cultural perspectives. Competitive proposals should clearly describe the overarching framework, provide well-defined research questions, and a detailed description of the proposed methods. Successful author teams are expected to provide exemplary syntax and data, so that readers can replicate and extend the analyses presented in the book.

Interesting aspects that could be explored in the report may include, but are not limited to:

- How are teaching practices and school environments associated with reading literacy across countries?
- What role does technology play in reading literacy development in different educational systems?
- How do socioeconomic factors and parental involvement predict reading literacy achievement?
- What policy interventions have associated with improved reading literacy in various educational contexts?

Although these suggested areas of focus are provided, the editors are open to other research areas as long as they focus on PIRLS data.

4. Data

IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study is a comprehensive assessment of reading literacy among primary school students in their fourth year of schooling. PIRLS collects data on reading achievement,

as well as contextual information from students, teachers, and schools about factors influencing reading literacy. In addition, national centers provide information about the respective national contexts.

PIRLS 2021, along with data from earlier cycles, offers a unique opportunity to explore trends in reading literacy and analyze the impact of various factors on reading achievement across different educational systems. Researchers are encouraged to utilize this rich data source to contribute to a better understanding of reading literacy and learning internationally.

5. General guidelines for proposal submission

5.1 Proposals must be submitted in English.

5.2 Please ensure the proposal demonstrates familiarity with the proposed research by including a sound literature review. Ensure that the contribution of the proposed thematic report to this literature is explicit, especially in terms of its potential to expand the current state of research and knowledge.

5.3 When preparing a proposal, please clearly specify the research relevance and the policy relevance of the research questions and methods selected. This specification needs to expand on and augment or complement the outline ideas set out in this call for proposals.

5.4 The proposal must furthermore describe the general analytical framework that will guide not only analyses of the IEA data but also interpretation of the results of those analyses. The description of the framework must be such that it clearly shows how the proposed analysis will address the policy-relevant research questions. The description should therefore identify:

- (i) which IEA data (study, questionnaire items, indices, or constructs from questionnaires) you intend to use,
- (ii) any non-IEA data sources that will be included, and
- (iii) any additional data collection that is deemed necessary (such as system-level characteristics).


Please make sure that a clear and complete description of the types of quantitative or qualitative analyses to be used is included. The degree to which the methods are suited to answer the research question is an important evaluation criterion for all proposals.

5.5 The proposal must include a detailed timeline for all analyses and report-writing activities, and a well-considered budget proposal to complete the project.

5.6 When developing timelines, assume a start date of 16 October 2023 and an end date of 1 December 2024. The final manuscript of the book must be supplied to IEA for print production by 1 August 2024. Although there may be a certain degree of flexibility in the timeline, it must make provision for (i) submission of a complete draft report by 1 May 2024 for review by IEA, and (ii) time for subsequent revision and language editing of the report. The corresponding author must be available for consultation with Springer Publishers during the print production period.

5.7 Budgets must include the expected number of workdays needed to complete each activity related to the project and a total budget in euros or US dollars. The total budget should not exceed 25,000 euros.

5.8 The call is open to all researchers, excluding teams from IEA International Study Centers. For the latter, direct assignments are possible.



5.9 The proposal should be no more than 10 pages in length¹. Please also provide a short (500-word maximum) biographical note on each person in the team tendering for the project. Please highlight the relevance of each person's experience to the proposed activities.

5.10 IEA will review all proposals according to their methodological quality, research and policy relevance, and budget. All tenderers will be informed of the outcome of these deliberations by late September 2023.

Proposals may be submitted by email.

The deadline for proposals is 1:00 p.m., 1 September 2023.

Email address: secretariat@iea.nl

¹ Times New Roman, Arial or similar, 12-point type, double spaced.