

LaNA 2023 Linking Study –International Press Release

LaNA 2023 Linking Study Establishes New Basic International Benchmarks in Mathematics and Reading

Amsterdam (25 February 2025) The International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) has successfully completed the 2023 Linking Study for its new Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (LaNA). LaNA is designed as a shorter, less demanding assessment of emerging reading and mathematics skills at the end of primary school for countries in which the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) and Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) assessments may be too difficult or unfeasible to implement.

The LaNA 2023 linking study involved six countries and established new Basic International Benchmarks in mathematics and reading by linking LaNA to the well-known TIMSS mathematics and PIRLS reading scales. These new benchmarks extend the existing International Benchmarks from TIMSS and PIRLS, enabling the characterization of student performance at the lower end of the achievement scale. Hence, it is now possible to describe the knowledge and skills of students who did not reach the Low International Benchmark of TIMSS or PIRLS. Utilizing findings related to the new Basic International Benchmarks alongside the rich context data collected from student and school questionnaires in LaNA can enable countries to understand the characteristics of successful students at the national level. This can help policymakers, researchers, and educators to reflect on ways to improve educational outcomes.

"We developed LaNA to offer a valid, reliable, and globally comparable assessment of emerging reading and mathematics skills. This development aligns with and extends the TIMSS and PIRLS benchmarks, and our results show that LaNA could be considered as a new indicator for monitoring the progress of countries towards the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 4.1.1," says Matthias von Davier, executive director of the TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center.

Across the six participating countries in the LaNA 2023 Linking Study, seventy percent of students reached the new Basic International Benchmark of mathematics achievement. These students showed an emerging understanding of calculations and demonstrated the ability to work with simple whole numbers. They demonstrated skills such as ordering three-digit numbers, visually distinguishing between two-dimensional shapes, and identifying quantities depicted in pictograms.

Fifty-five percent of students across the LaNA 2023 Linking Study countries reached the new Basic International Benchmark of reading achievement. These students demonstrated basic literacy skills when reading simple literary and informational texts. They have shown the ability to perform tasks such as retrieving and recognizing explicitly stated details from a specific section of a text and making simple or straightforward inferences.

The successful link of LaNA to the TIMSS and PIRLS scales and integration of the new Basic International Benchmark provides a foundation for future administrations of LaNA in additional countries. Unlike the TIMSS and PIRLS assessments that require all participating countries to follow the same schedule, LaNA can be administered off-cycle in any given



year, enabling countries to choose an optimal administration period and receive their results and data relatively quickly. As such, interested countries can directly build upon the success of the LaNA 2023 Linking Study.

"We invite countries worldwide to seize the opportunity to participate in LaNA, our less complex but highly effective assessment of emerging reading and mathematics skills" says Dirk Hastedt, executive director of IEA. "LaNA offers valuable insights into student performance, enabling us to collaboratively work to improve education systems in a more diverse group of countries and support every student's growth."

The results of the LaNA 2023 Linking Study were released on February 25, 2025, in an event held in Dakar, Senegal with participation from representatives of the countries and donor organizations. The results are available at: <https://doi.org/10.6017/lse.tpisc.bk4721>

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