



IEA Compass Briefs: Thanks!

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IEA General Assembly 2026





I turned 50. Naturally, I have a plan.

My midlife crisis

Reading lots of philosophy.
Still have questions.

Meditating.
Still thinking about my inbox.

Work life balance.
Still working too much.



One conclusion so far: I have a lot to be thankful for.



Thank you, IEA leadership

For trusting me with this work.



[Dr. Dirk Hastedt](#)



[Dr. Andrea Netten](#)



[Dr. Christian Christrup Kjeldsen](#)



[Dr. Thierry Rocher](#)

It is an honor to contribute to this organization.



IEA

Thank you, IEA staff who help with the Briefs

You turn drafts into briefs
and keep the whole process moving.

- **Angela Colley – AMAZING**
- **Laura Cheeseman – ALSO AMAZING**
- **Sheamus Hegarty (and the PEC) – Unbelievably helpful**
- **IEA Communications Team – Always responding and helping!**
- **Jan-Peter Broek – Helpful every time I need him (and so is Isabelle 😊)**

Thank you for your expertise, care, and patience with your editor.

Especially that last part.



Thank you, General Assembly



**Your commitment makes
this international work
possible.**

It is a privilege
to work with you.



Thank you to our authors of 2026!

29 **Digital natives**

Julian Fraillon

30 **Gender gaps in mathematics
(UNESCO)**

Matthias Eck (UNESCO), Juliane Hencke, Falk Brese, Justine Sass (UNESCO), Una McCarthy-Fakhry (UNESCO)

31 **School leaders and AI**

Sabine Meinck, Marlen Holtmann,
Julian Fraillon, Rolf Strietholt

32 **Gender and learning motivation**

Duygu Savaşçı-Smith, Nurullah Eryilmaz,
Oliver Neuschmidt

Without you, there are no briefs.



What are Compass Briefs?

Short(ish). Clear. Useful.

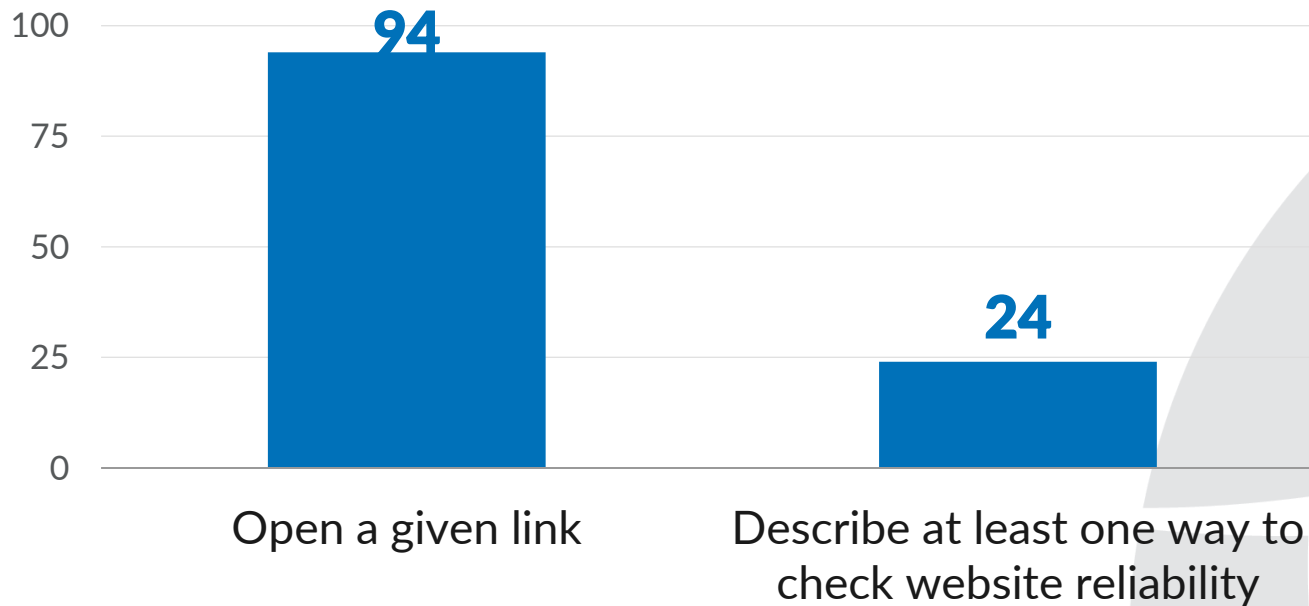
Research from IEA studies, written for education policy and practice.

International authors. Careful review.
A focus on what the findings mean.



Julian Fraillon

ICILS 2023: percentage of students completing each task



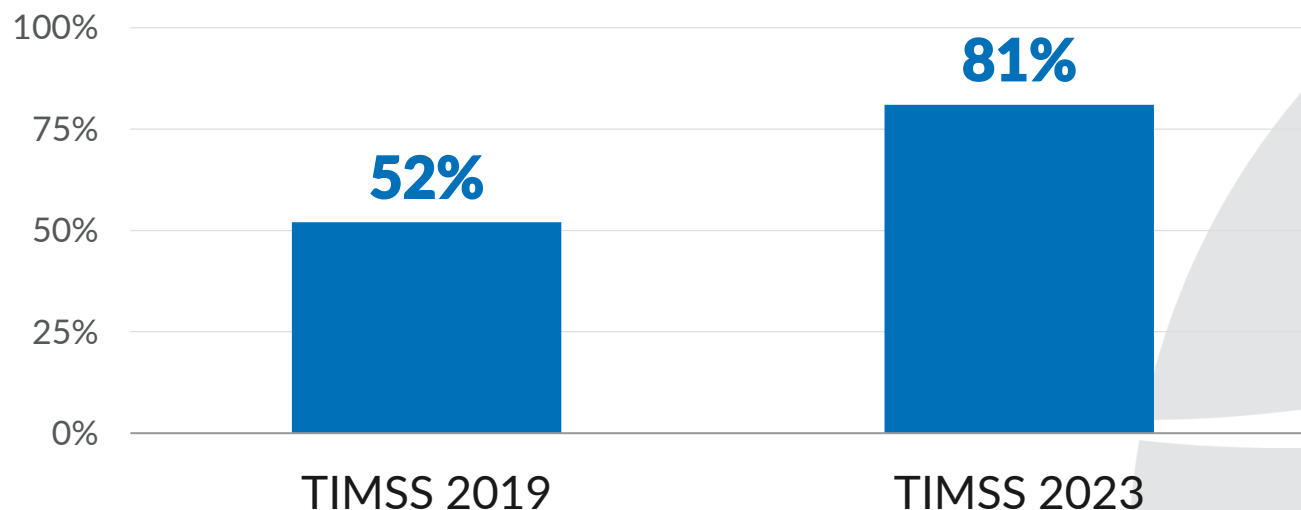
84%

felt they could judge online trustworthiness at least moderately well.

Digital evaluation skills need explicit teaching.

Matthias Eck, Juliane Hencke, Falk Brese, Justine Sass, Una McCarthy-Fakhry

Education systems with a significant gap favoring boys



Fourth-grade mathematics

The share reached its highest level since 1995.

Progress toward gender equality can reverse.

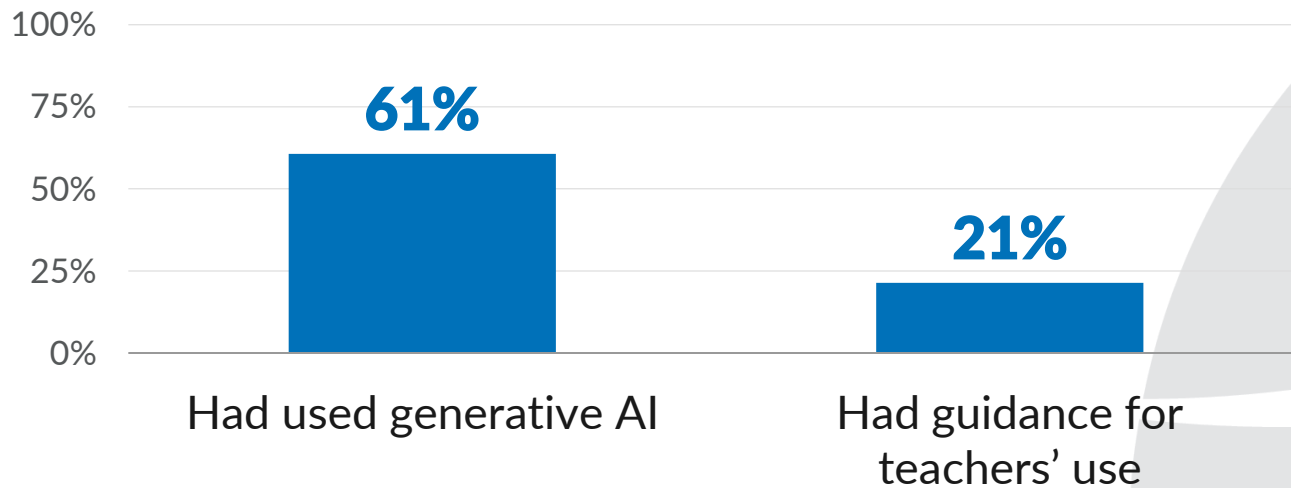


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School leaders and generative AI

Sabine Meinck, Marlen Holtmann, Julian Fraillon, Rolf Strietholt

An early snapshot: late 2023 to early 2024



1,172 principals
11 countries

Leaders saw opportunities and risks. They needed support to respond.

Clear guidance and professional learning matter.

Duygu Savaşçı-Smith, Nurullah Eryılmaz, Oliver Neuschmidt

Reading

Girls generally report greater enjoyment across country income groups.

Mathematics

Boys' higher enjoyment and perceived competence appear mainly in high-income countries.

Makes use of the LANA linking study (PIRLS and TIMSS)



What these briefs help us see

Digital literacy

Technology use alone does not ensure critical evaluation.

Mathematics

Gender equality needs sustained attention.

School leadership

New technology brings new support needs.

Learning motivation

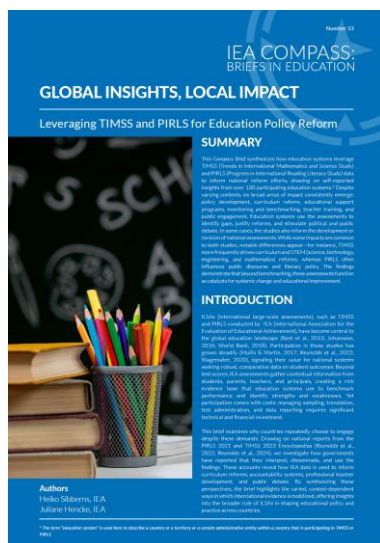
Motivational indicators matter.

Thank you for making these questions possible to investigate.

Global Insights, Local Impact

Leveraging TIMSS and PIRLS for Education Policy Reform

Heiko Sibberns and Juliane Hencke, IEA



How international evidence informs national reform

Education systems report using TIMSS and PIRLS to guide policy, revise curricula, and support teachers.

New at this GA. Please help us spread the word!



What's next and your help!

**Upcoming briefs: Tiredness, Environmental Education,
Citizenship, Educational Inequality in Thailand**

Please help promote and send me ideas of what you want!



Where to find the briefs

The whole series is on the IEA website.

Download a brief.
Share it with someone who can use it.

Please help give Brief 33 a strong launch!

[iea.nl/publications/series-journals/
iea-compass-briefs-education-series](https://iea.nl/publications/series-journals/iea-compass-briefs-education-series)



Scan for the series



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Thank you!

**It is an honor
to do this work
with you.**

Still searching for inner peace.
Now with a Corvette.

