

PIRLS 2026

Progress Report

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TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center

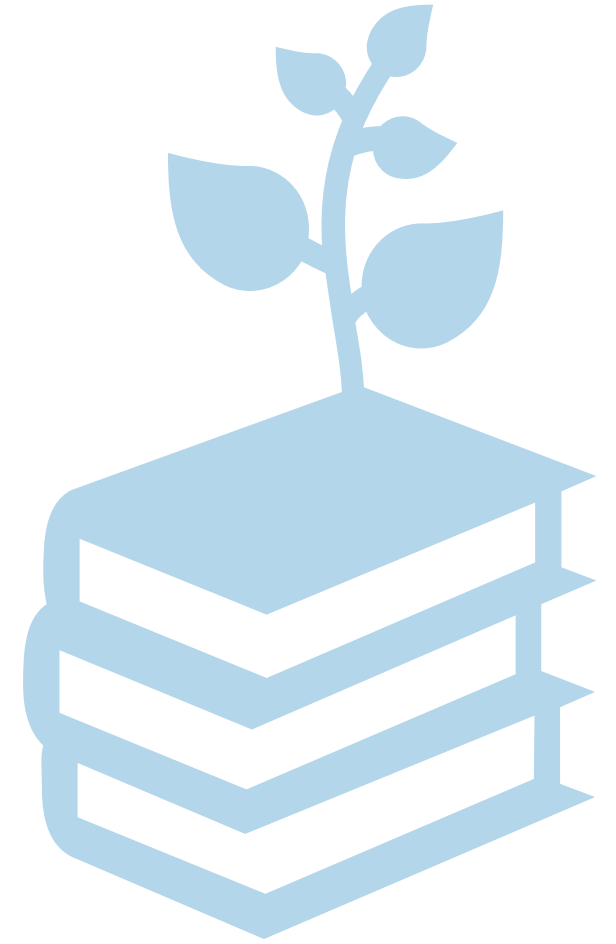
IEA General Assembly
Warsaw, Poland
October 5, 2026



PIRLS 2026

IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study

- The sixth cycle of PIRLS
- Completes the transition to a fully digital format
- 56 countries and 6 benchmarking entities
- Field test in 2025
- Main data collection in 2026
- Report with international results in 2027



PIRLS 2026 Participants

Albania

Australia

Austria

Azerbaijan

Bahrain

Belgium (Flemish)

Belgium (French)

Brazil

Bulgaria

Canada

Chinese Taipei

Cyprus

Czech Republic

Denmark

England

Finland

France

Georgia

Germany

Hong Kong SAR

Hungary

Ireland

Israel

Italy

Jordan

Kazakhstan

Korea, Rep. of

Kuwait

Latvia

Lithuania

Macao SAR

Malta

Montenegro

Morocco

The Netherlands

New Zealand

North Macedonia

Northern Ireland

Norway

Oman

Poland

Portugal

Qatar

Romania

Saudi Arabia

Scotland

Serbia

Singapore

Slovak Republic

Slovenia

Spain

Sweden

Tajikistan

United Arab Emirates

Uzbekistan

Wales

Benchmarking

Ontario, Canada

Quebec, Canada

South Africa (ICT; 6)

Abu Dhabi, UAE

Dubai, UAE

Sharjah, UAE

Activities & Accomplishments since September 2025



Preparing the Data Collection Instruments and Players



Survey Operations Procedures



PIRLS 2026 Data Collection



International Quality Assurance Monitoring Program



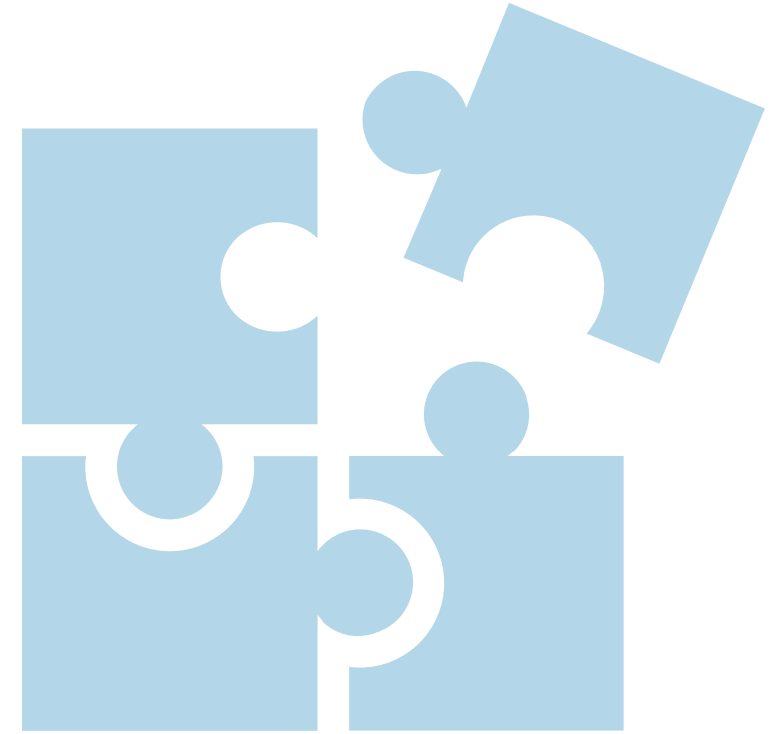
Scoring Training and Scoring



Analysis and Report Planning

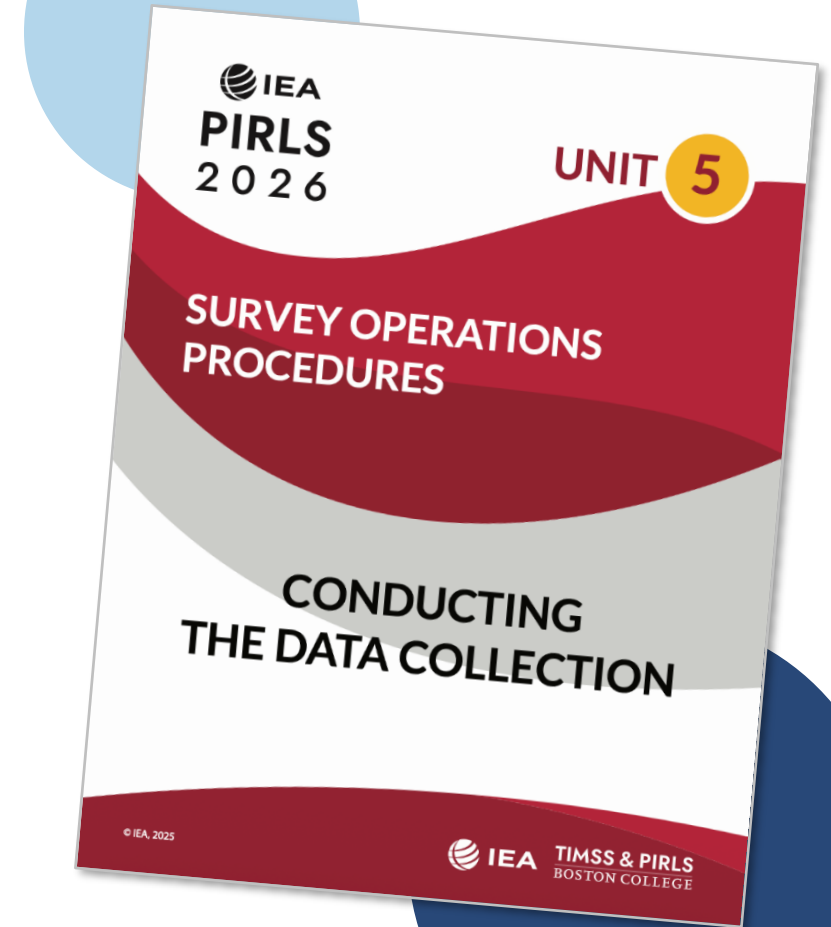
Preparing Data Collection Instruments & National Players

- Finalized the International player
- Translation, localization, and verification
 - Trend blocks (countries transitioning from paper to digital)
 - Non-trend blocks and questionnaires
- National players tested and released to countries on rolling basis



Survey Operations Procedures

- Unit 3: *Contacting Schools and Sampling Classes*
- Unit 4: *Preparing the Achievement Test and Preparing the Context Questionnaires*
- School Coordinator manual
- Unit 5: *Conducting the Data Collection; Test Administrator and NQAM manuals*
- Unit 6: *Scoring the Constructed-Response Items*
- Unit 7: *Databases and Documentation*



International Quality Assurance Monitoring Program

- Ensures that PIRLS activities are administered consistently across countries
- Recruitment & training completed
January 2026 (Northern Hemisphere)
August 2026 (Southern Hemisphere)
- Results from school observations will be considered as part of the sampling adjudication process and summarized in the PIRLS 2026 technical documentation



PIRLS 2026 Data Collection

**NORTHERN
HEMISPHERE**
March–June 2026



9 literary blocks
9 informational blocks
(**284** achievement
items in total)

+

Student, Home (Parent), School, and
Teacher Questionnaires

**SOUTHERN
HEMISPHERE**
August–December 2026

Delayed administration
in countries affected
by Gulf region conflicts

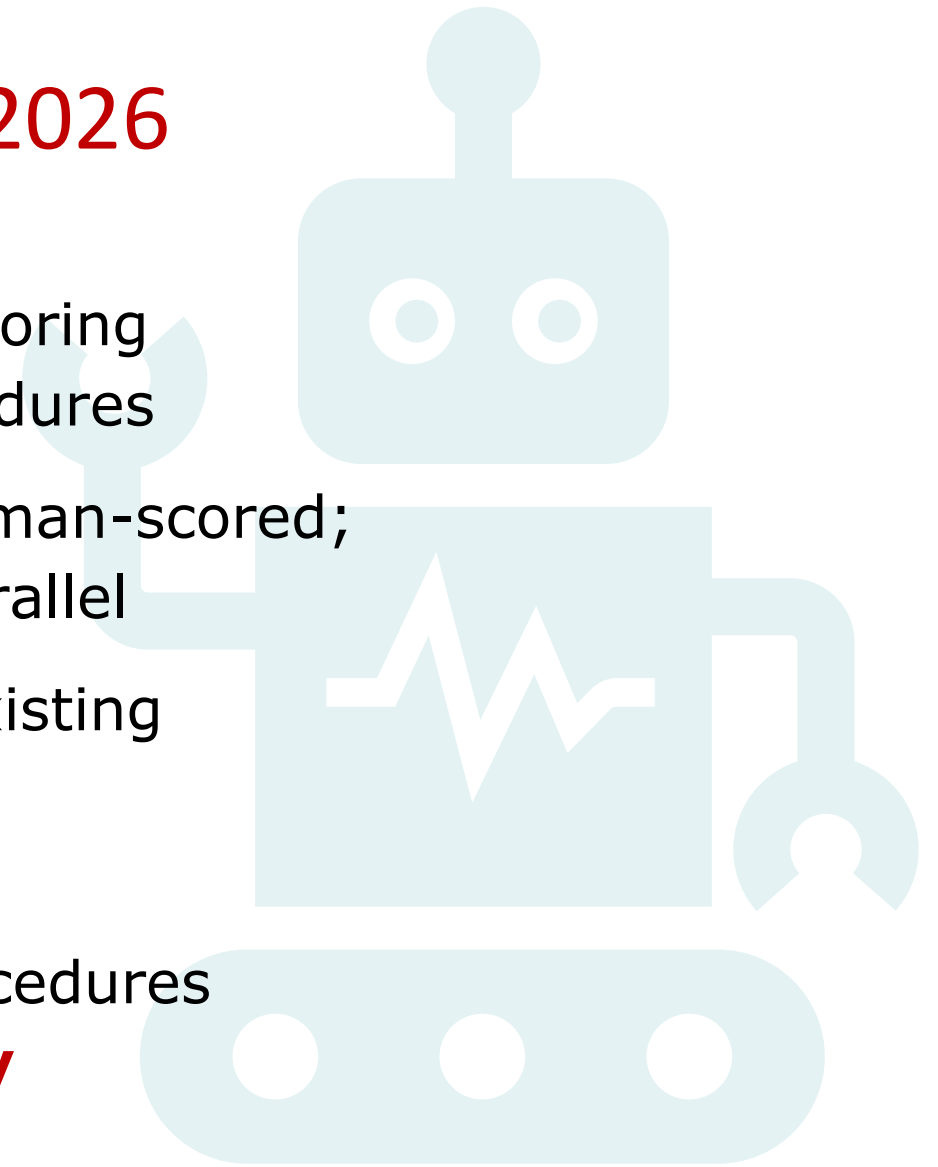
Scoring Training

- Conducted at the **6th NRC meeting** (March 2026)
- **137** constructed-response items
- Over **130** attendees trained in hands-on scoring exercises, applying scoring criteria to real student responses
- Training strengthens **consistency** and **reliability** across countries

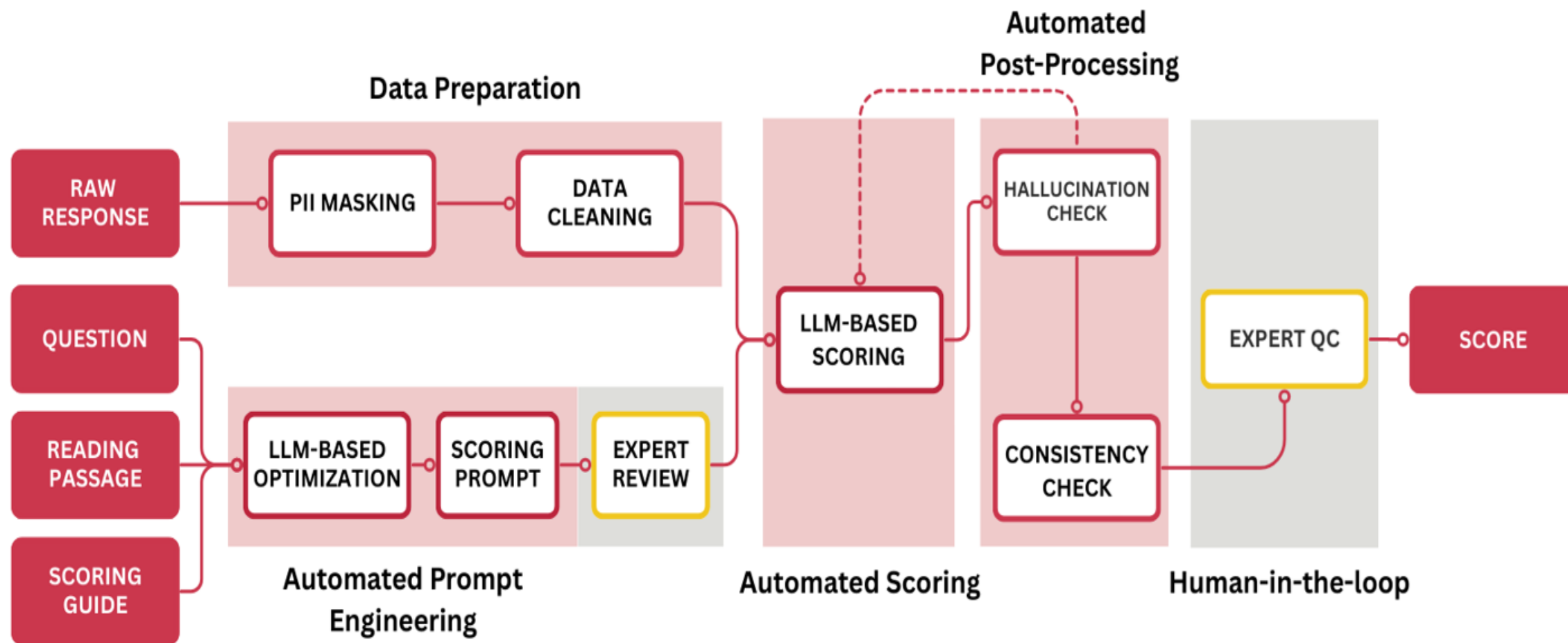


Automated Scoring Plans for PIRLS 2026

- PIRLS 2026 will expand use of automated scoring **alongside** established human scoring procedures
- All **constructed-response** items will be human-scored; about half will be automatically scored in parallel
- Automated scoring will operate within the existing data processing pipeline and adhere to strict **privacy safeguards**
- Integrating automation with established procedures allows PIRLS 2026 to **innovate responsibly**



PIRLS Automated Scoring Pipeline



PIRLS 2026 Field Test & 2021 Trend Data Results

96.1%

Exact Agreement
with Human Scoring

0.90

Cohen's Kappa

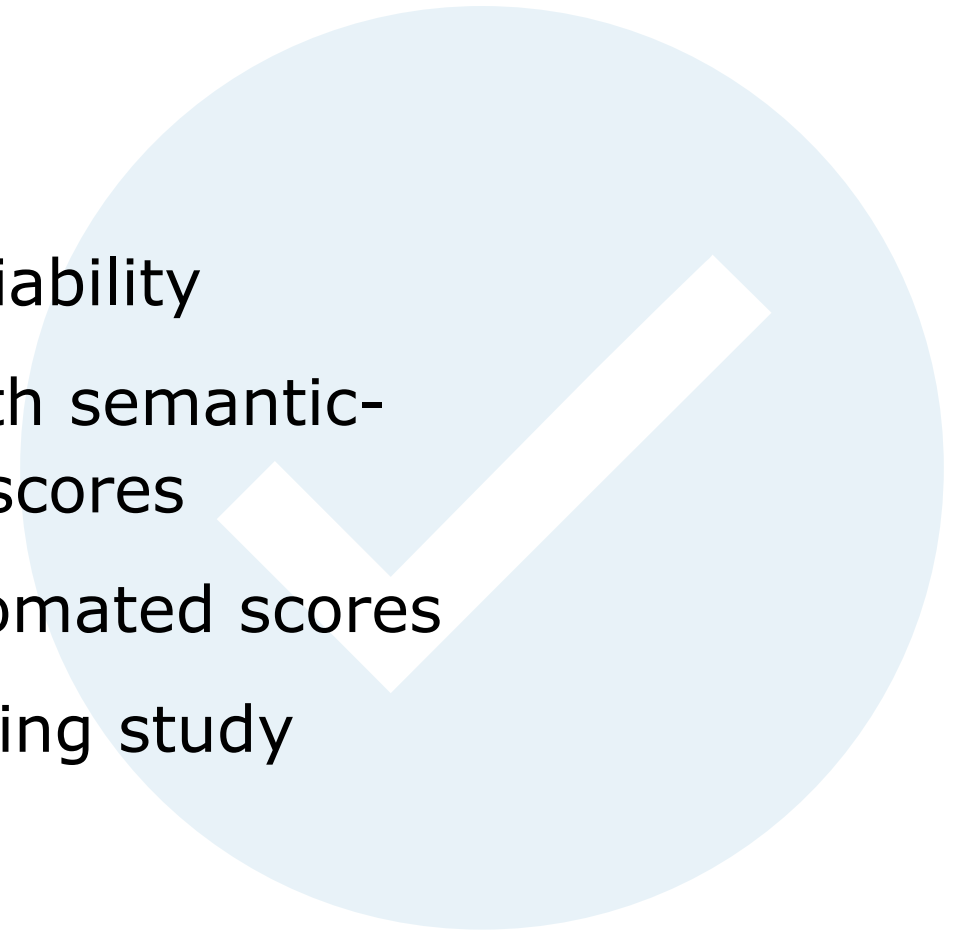
+50 items

Across Trend
and FT Items

Scoring Reliability Using LiRA

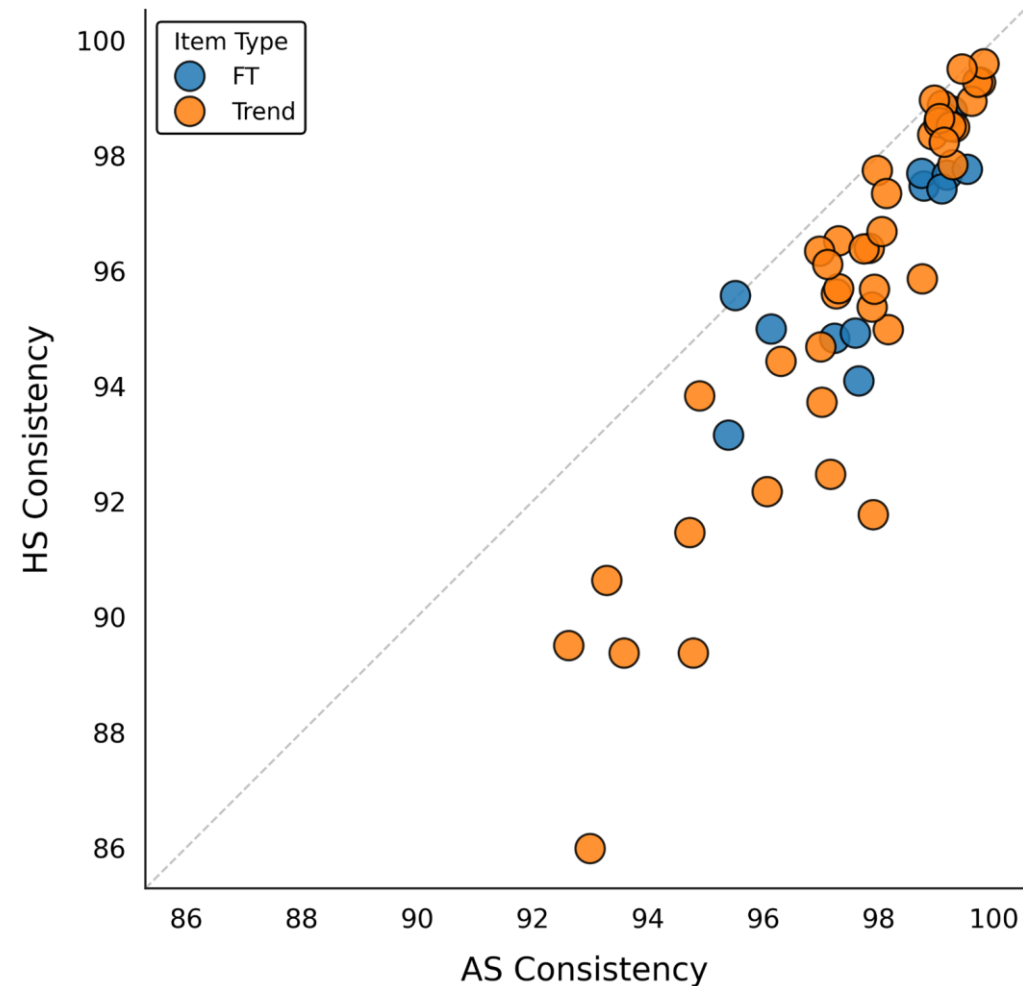
Linguistic-integrated Reliability Audit

- A novel method for estimating scoring reliability
- Replaces costly human double-scoring with semantic-similarity based, data-driven benchmark scores
- Applicable to both human scores and automated scores
- Replaces the cross-country reliability scoring study implemented in previous PIRLS cycles



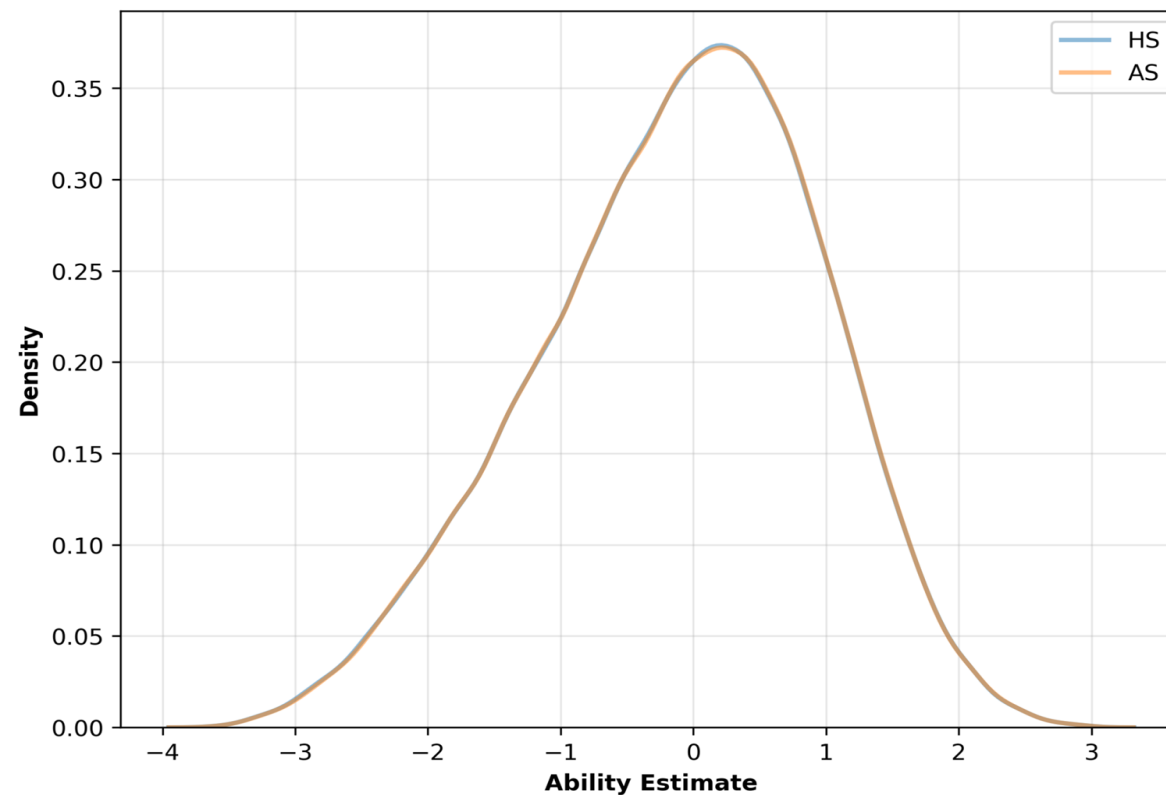
Robust Scoring Consistency Achieved

- According to LiRA, AS achieved **97.7%** consistency, outperforming HS at **96.0%**
- AS generally showed higher consistency across items, countries, and languages



Psychometric Impact of AI Scoring

- Compared EAP estimates under two conditions
- Score distributions showed near-complete overlap across the ability range
- Very strong agreement between estimates ($r > 0.99$)
- For every country, correlation is above 0.99 ranging from 0.993 to 0.999

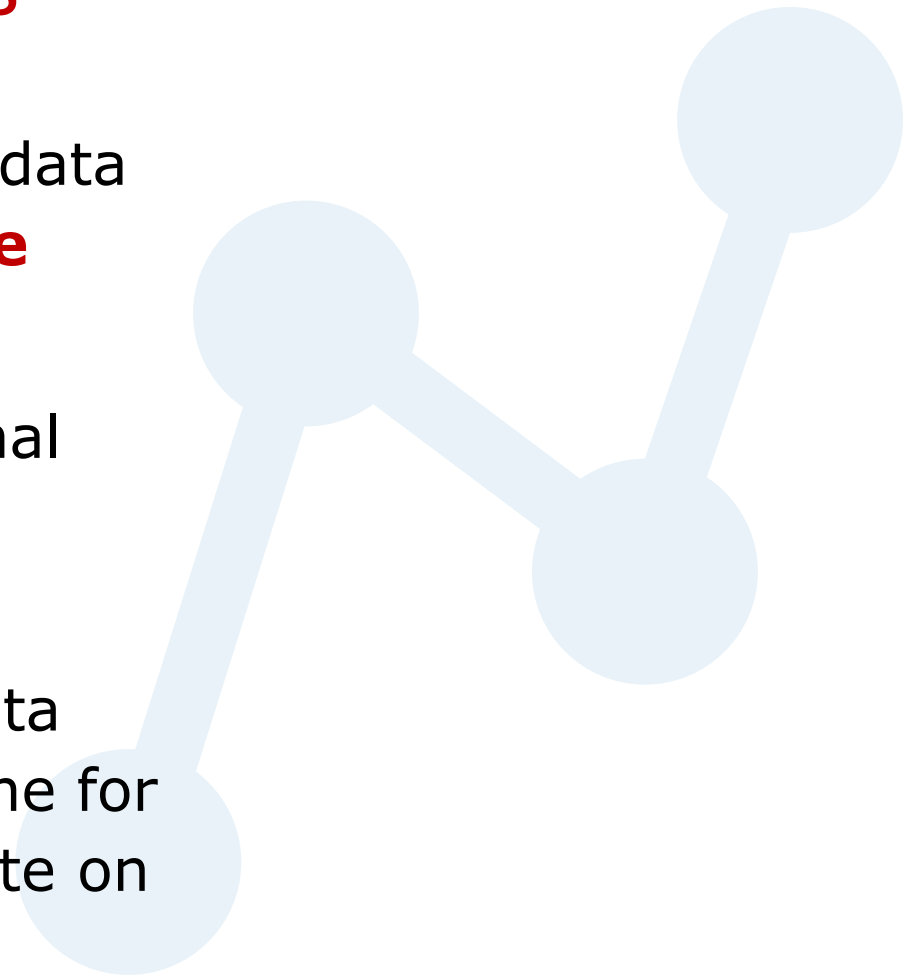


Summary of Automated Scoring in PIRLS 2026

- Higher consistency/reliability than human scoring
- Human-AS agreement is as high as Human-Human
- Recommend using automated scores in 2026 results
- Expand to more constructed-response items in 2031

Scoring and Data Analysis Next Steps

- Currently processing, scoring, and reviewing data from countries on the **Northern Hemisphere** timeline
- NRCs can expect to receive their initial national databases with unweighted data and documentation on **November 19, 2026**
- Webinar on **December 3, 2026** to review data documentation, discuss guidelines and timeline for checking the data, and provide a status update on automated scoring



Report Planning

- First fully online PIRLS international results
- Development of web-based report will focus on:
 - Easy navigation across sections
 - Building upon data visualizations and interactive features initially developed for PIRLS 2021 and extended for TIMSS 2023
- Draft outline in progress
- Decisions pending closer look at data



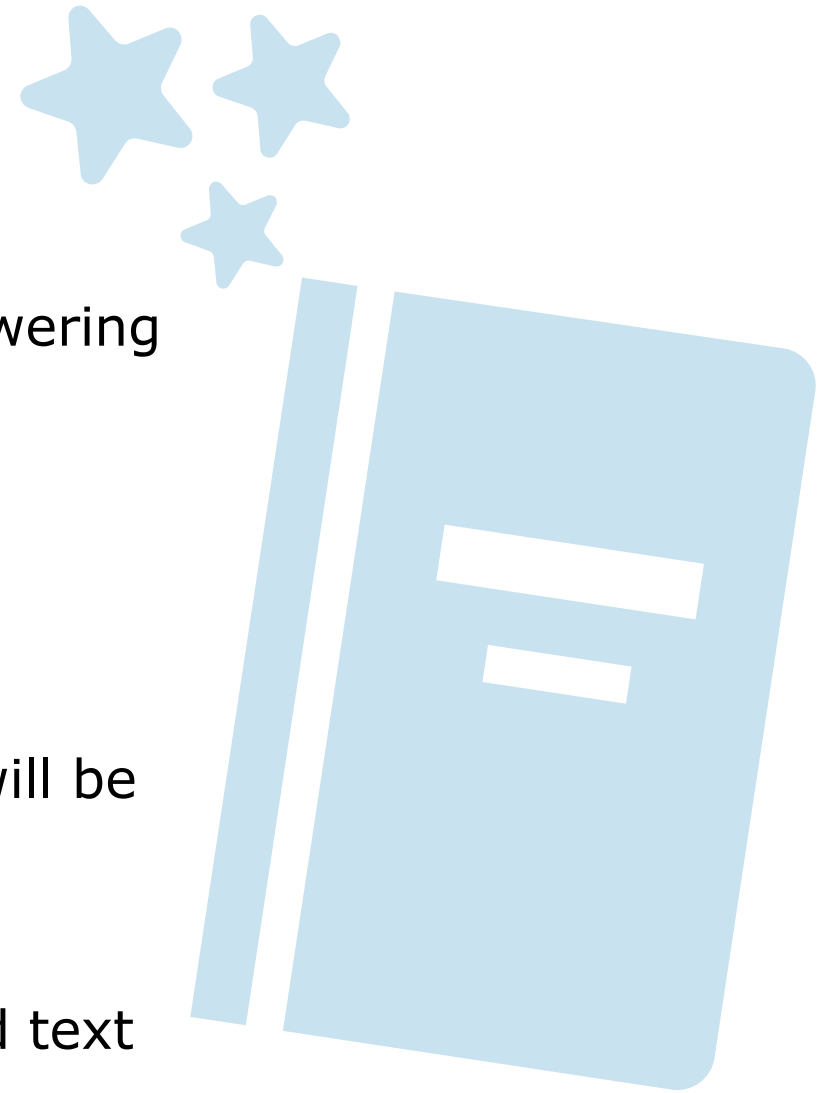
Reporting Schedule

PIRLS 2026 Encyclopedia **November 2027**

- Countries currently writing/updating chapters and answering Curriculum Questionnaire

PIRLS 2026 International Report **December 7, 2027**

- **April 2027:** Draft report outline will be shared at 7th NRC meeting
- **July 2027:** Draft report text and interactive exhibits will be shared and discussed at the 8th NRC meeting
- **September 2027:** Draft database shared with NRCs
- **November 2027:** Embargoed final report exhibits and text shared with NRCs



Upcoming Activities, Meetings, & Milestones

- **April 4–9, 2027:** 7th NRC Meeting to review draft outline and draft exhibits and discuss reporting plans
- **May 4–5, 2027:** Sampling adjudication
- **May–June 2027:** Complete psychometric analysis
- **June 2027:** 4th RDG meeting to conduct scale anchoring
- **July 15, 2027:** Materials for 8th NRC Meeting posted; NRCs receive national weighted data with plausible values
- **July 20–21, 2027:** International database training (national data only)
- **July 26–29, 2027:** 8th NRC Meeting (online) to review draft report



Upcoming Activities, Meetings, & Milestones

- **September 9, 2027:** Draft International Database (internal release to NRCs)
- **November 5, 2027:** *PIRLS 2026 Encyclopedia*
- **December 7, 2027:** *International Results*
 - Online International Report
 - Methods and Procedures (Technical Report)
 - International Release Event
- **February 2028:** International Database and User Guide
- **February 2028:** 9th NRC Meeting for international database training



Thank you!

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