

PIRLS 2026

Progress Report

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TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center

IEA General Assembly

September 30, 2024



PIRLS 2026

Progress in International Reading Literacy Study

- The sixth cycle of PIRLS
- Completes the transition to a fully digital format
- Field test in 2025; main data collection in 2026
- Report with international results in 2027
- 54 countries and 4 benchmarking entities



PIRLS 2026 Participants

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
Iran, Islamic Rep. of
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Korea, Rep. of
Kuwait
Latvia
Lithuania
Macao SAR
Malta

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

Benchmarking participants

Ontario, Canada
Quebec, Canada
Abu Dhabi, UAE
Dubai, UAE

Advantages of a fully digital format

- Engaging and innovative assessment items
- Efficient data collection
- Collection of process data
- More reliable scoring
- Quality assurance
- Improved security of data collection and processing



Activities and Accomplishments since September 2023



Updating and publishing the assessment frameworks



Developing the reading achievement test



Updating the context questionnaires



Preparing the assessment platform and software



Publishing the PIRLS Insights reports

PIRLS 2026 Assessment Frameworks

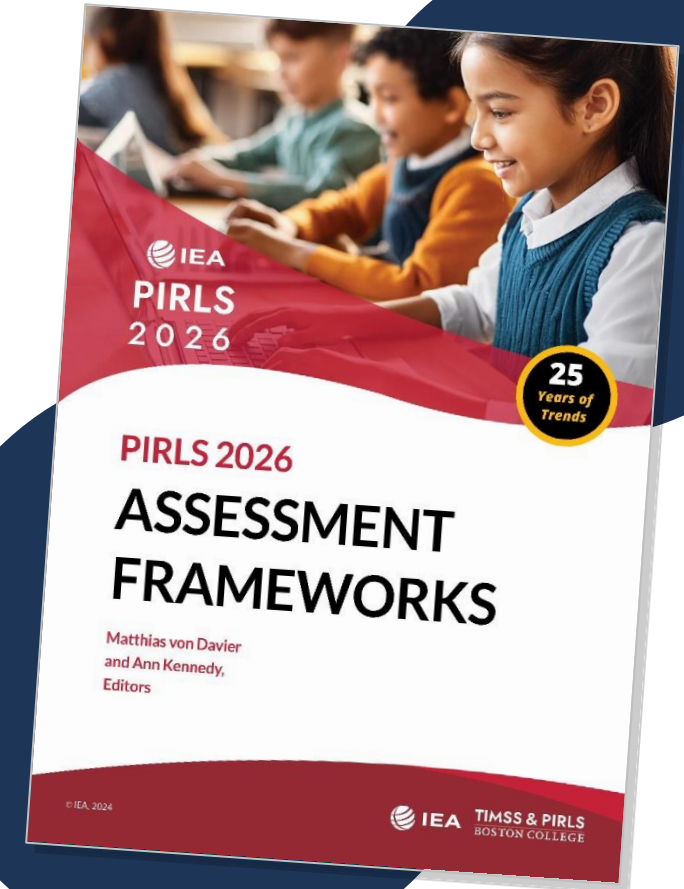


Released June 20, 2024



Consists of 3 chapters:

- Reading Assessment Framework
- Context Questionnaire Framework
- Assessment Design



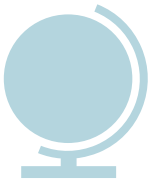
Achievement Test Development



4 new item blocks (3 literary, 1 informational ePIRLS) needed for PIRLS 2026—8 needed for the Field Test (6 literary, 2 ePIRLS)



Text selected and items developed, reviewed, and revised in multiple rounds by the ISC, the Reading Development Group, and NRCs



Preparing achievement materials to be released to countries for translation

Context Questionnaire Development



Updates to the Student, Home, Teacher, School, and Curriculum questionnaires based on Contextual Framework revisions



Scales reviewed and items developed, reviewed, and revised in multiple rounds by the ISC, the Questionnaire Development Group, and NRCs



Transition to IEA's StudyExpert for questionnaire administration in all countries. Was successfully used in other assessments

Assessment platform and software



Updates to assessment functionality and data capture, based on PIRLS 2021 and to better align with TIMSS 2023 improvements



Field test content was implemented within the system, and both content and data capture were reviewed by the TIMSS & PIRLS ISC and IEA Hamburg

PIRLS Insights Reports

Using PIRLS data to explore thematic topics of interest

- *Aspects of Student Well-Being and Reading Achievement in PIRLS 2021* (Jan 16, 2024)
- *COVID-19 Research Resources in PIRLS 2021* (May 14, 2024)
- Upcoming: Socioeconomic contexts and reading achievement report (2025)



Activities, Meetings, & Milestones

- **October 25–26, 2023:** RDG meeting (online) to select texts and discuss the draft Reading Assessment Framework
- **November 16, 2023:** NRC webinar to provide project updates
- **January 16, 2024:** Publication of first Insights report (student well-being)
- **February 11–16, 2024:** 2nd NRC meeting (Copenhagen, Denmark) to draft field test achievement items

Activities, Meetings, & Milestones (continued)

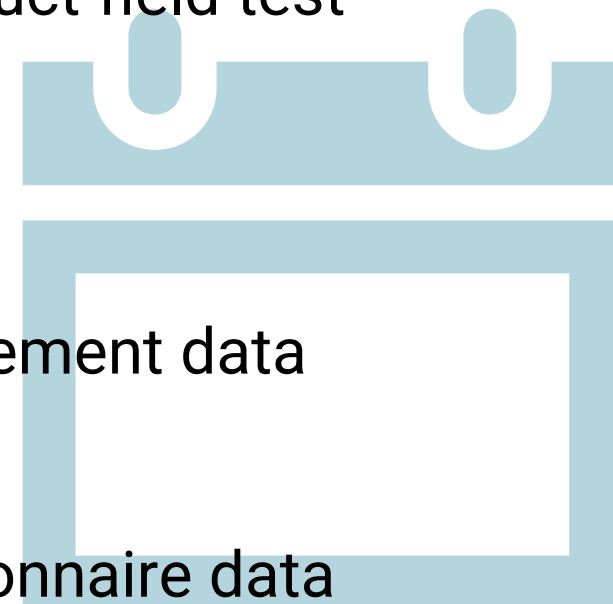
- **April 17–19, 2024:** 2nd RDG meeting (Boston, United States) to review draft items and tasks and make final recommendations for the field test
- **April 23–25, 2024:** 2nd QDG meeting (Boston, United States) to review draft context questionnaires and framework for the field test
- **May 14, 2024:** Publication of second PIRLS Insights report (COVID–19)
- **June 2–7, 2024:** 3rd NRC meeting (Jūrmala, Latvia) to finalize field test content and review field test procedures

Activities, Meetings, & Milestones (continued)

- **June–August 2024:** Preparation of field test assessment systems (achievement and questionnaires)
- **September 12, 2024:** Release of field test materials, Survey Operations Procedures Unit 2A, and materials for RM's Assessment Master and IEA's StudyExpert
- **September 16, 2024:** Assessment Master training webinar
- **September 18, 2024:** StudyExpert training webinar

Upcoming Activities, Meetings, & Milestones

- **October 28–30, 2024:** Data Management Seminar for the field test (Hamburg)
- **March 10–14, 2025:** 4th NRC meeting (online) to conduct field test scoring training
- **March–April 2025:** Field Test administration
- **July 2025:** 3rd RDG meeting to review field test achievement data and recommend data collection achievement blocks
- **July 2025:** 3rd QDG meeting to review field test questionnaire data and recommend data collection context questionnaires



Upcoming Activities, Meetings, & Milestones

- **Aug 17–22, 2025:** 5th NRC meeting (in person, location TBD) to review and finalize content for data collection
- **October 2025:** PIRLS 2026 data collection assessment content released to NRCs
- **March–June 2026:** Main data collection, Northern Hemisphere
- **March 2026:** 6th NRC Meeting (in person, location TBD) for data collection scoring training

Upcoming Activities, Meetings, & Milestones

- **September–December 2026:** Main data collection, Southern Hemisphere
- **March 2027:** 7th NRC Meeting (in person, dates and location TBD) to review background data and discuss international report outline and preparations
- **June 2027:** Scaling and analysis
- **June 2027:** 4th RDG meeting (in person, dates and location TBD) to conduct scale anchoring

Upcoming Activities, Meetings, & Milestones

- **July 2027:** 8th NRC Meeting (online) to review draft report text and exhibits
- **November 2027:** *PIRLS 2026 Encyclopedia* release
- **December 2027:** International Results release
- **February 2028:** International Database and User Guide release
- **February 2028:** 9th NRC Meeting (in person, location TBD) for international database training

Thank you!



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