

Progress Report

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TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center

IEA General Assembly

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PIRLS 2026

IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study

- The sixth cycle of PIRLS
- Completes the transition to a fully digital format
- 58 countries and 4 benchmarking entities
- Field test completed 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
Hungary
Iran, Islamic Rep. of
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Korea, Rep. of
Kuwait
Latvia
Lithuania
Macao

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
South Africa (G6)
Spain
Sweden
Tajikistan
United Arab Emirates
Uzbekistan
Wales

Benchmarking
Quebec, Canada
Abu Dhabi, UAE
Dubai, UAE
Sharjah, UAE

Advantages of a fully digital assessment

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



Activities and Accomplishments since September 2024



PIRLS Insights series



Field test preparations



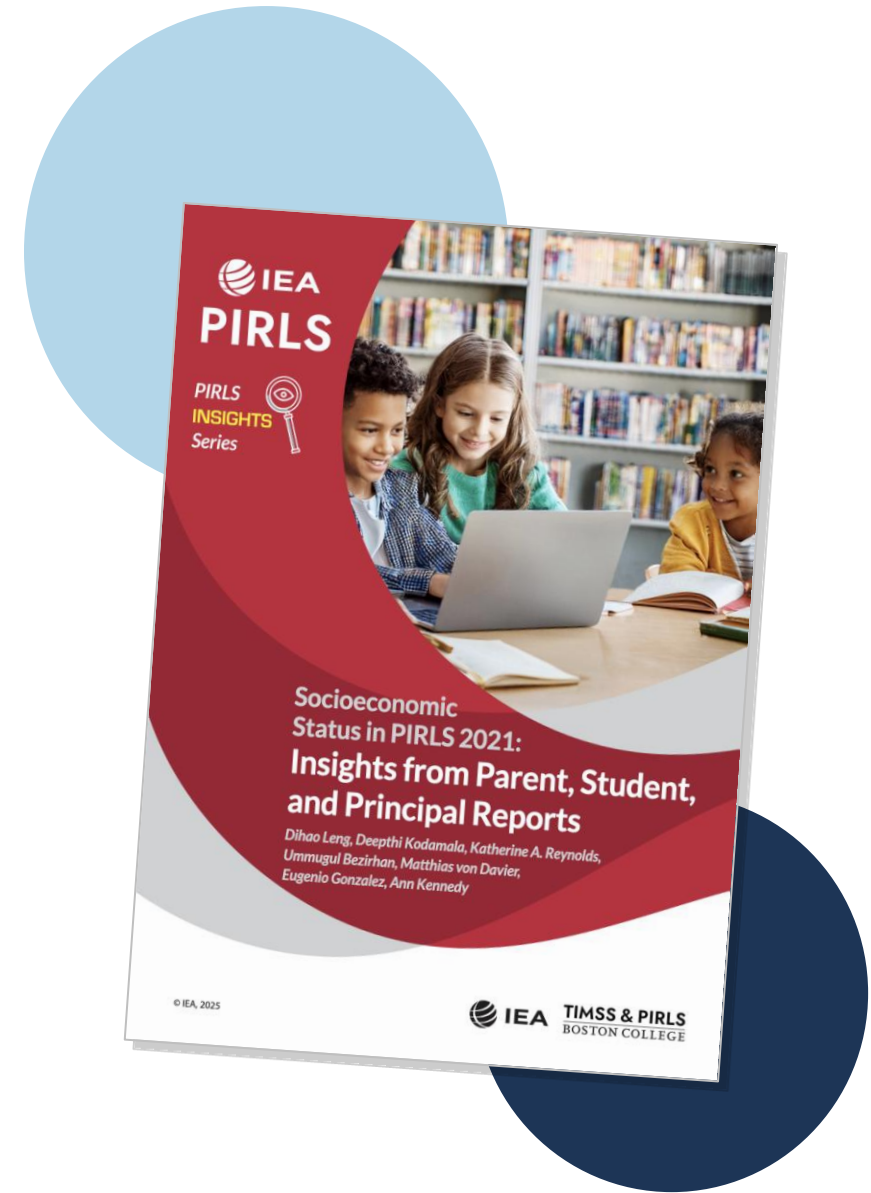
Field test administration



Review of field test results and
preparations for main data collection

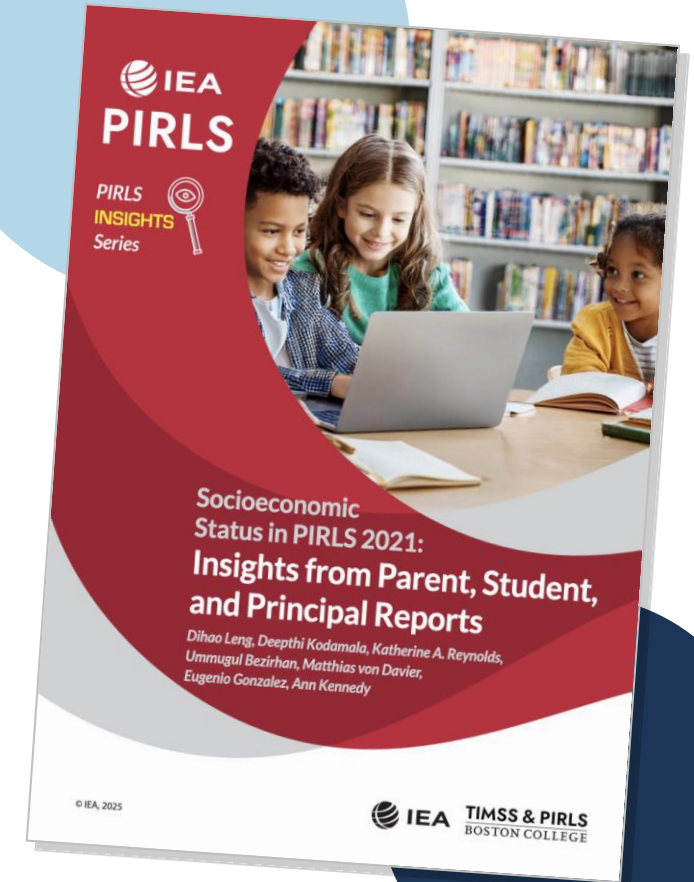
PIRLS Insights Series

- *Socioeconomic Status in PIRLS 2021: Insights from Parent, Student, and Principal Reports*
- Final PIRLS 2021 Insights report
- New scale: Home Socioeconomic Status, created from context questionnaire items
- Strong positive relationship between Home SES and reading achievement
- Report examines how other context variables align with and predict Home SES



Key Takeaways from this report

- Within countries with high rates of missing data for the Home Socioeconomic Status scale, students with lower reading achievement are more likely to have missing data.
- Number of books at home continues to be a strong indicator of socioeconomic status; access to digital devices are less related than more traditional measures.
- Student and school variables can explain some variance in socioeconomic status but are no substitute for the parent-based scale.



Preparing for the field test



Translation and adaptation of field test instruments



Verification and player testing



Sampling information and WinW3S software

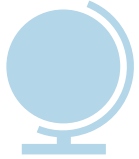


Item pilot and scoring preparations

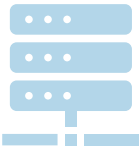


Survey Operations Procedures releases

Field test administration, analysis, and review



56 countries and 3 benchmarking entities participated; More than 54,000 students assessed



Data reviewed by the ISC in June 2025; QDG and RDG reviews in July



Recommendations presented and discussed at the 5th NRC Meeting in Warsaw, Poland in August



Instruments selected for main data collection

Field test feedback from NRCs

Overall, feedback from countries was positive; the field test ran smoothly in all participating countries.

Reported issues were primarily concerns about:

- The length of the Student Directions and achievement test
Some revisions to directions were implemented; empirical evidence that most students were able to finish the test within the assessment time
- Students not familiar with devices used for the assessment (e.g., laptops)

Suggest national centers contact the ISC if concerns warrant discussion before data collection



Preparation for the main data collection

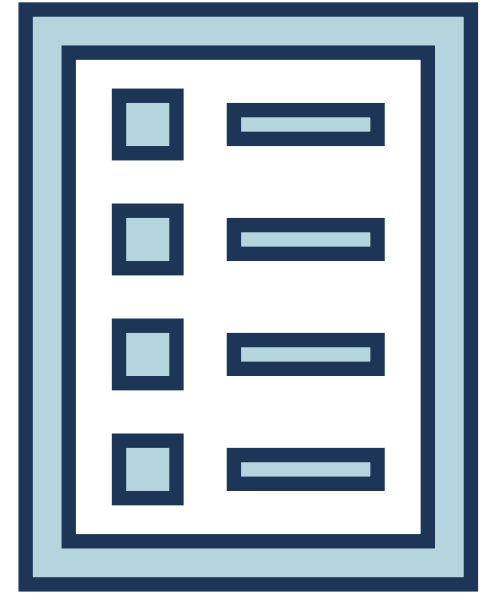
- Data-driven evaluation of the quality of all field-tested materials
- Selection of the best achievement blocks and context questionnaire scales for data collection [10 context scales from previous cycle, 10 new scales]
- Adjustments to further improve the instruments
- Release of trend achievement content for translation (all new participants and paper-only participants in 2021)
- Finalization of scoring procedures (ongoing)

All activities conducted in close cooperation with NRCs



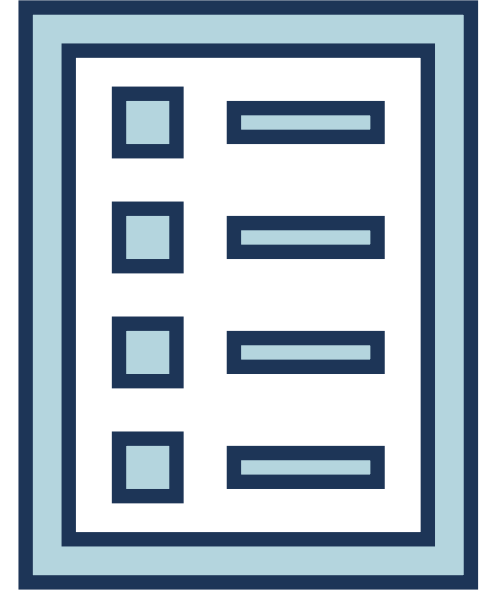
Scoring Procedures for PIRLS 2026

- All constructed-response items will be scored by human scorers within each country, as originally planned and budgeted
- For a subset of items (40%), scoring using Large Language Models (LLMs) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) methods will run in parallel
- Proposed scoring approach based on extensive research with careful attention to: data privacy and security, consistency of results across countries and languages, and evaluation of item-specific results from research using PIRLS 2021 data



Scoring Procedures for PIRLS 2026

- Procedures discussed with NRCs at the 5th NRC meeting and updates to plans based on NRC feedback
- The TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center will perform detailed comparisons between automated and human scores
- Quality and consistency of results will be the basis for data-driven recommendations on whether to use automated or human scores for final data



Upcoming activities, meetings, and milestones

- **October 2, 2025:** Materials for data collection made available to countries
- **October 23, 2025:** IEA Hamburg provides countries with the Within-school Sampling Software (WinW3S) for data collection
- **November 3–5, 2025:** IEA Hamburg conducts the Data Management Seminar for data collection (online)



Upcoming activities, meetings, and milestones

- **March–June 2026:** Main data collection, Northern Hemisphere
- **March 8–13, 2026:** 6th NRC Meeting for data collection scoring training (Malta)
- **September–December 2026:** Main data collection, Southern Hemisphere
- **March 2027:** 7th NRC Meeting (in-person) to review background data and discuss international report outline and preparations



Upcoming activities, meetings, and milestones

- **June 2027:** Scaling and analysis; 4th RDG meeting to conduct scale anchoring
- **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; 9th NRC meeting (in-person) for international database training



Thank you!

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