

What type of assessment is PISA?

PISA is developed through an international consensus-building process involving input from U.S. and international experts in science, reading, mathematics, financial literacy, collaborative problem solving, and educational measurement. The PISA assessment materials are thoroughly reviewed by within-country experts to make sure the materials are appropriate for each country’s students. Finally, the resulting assessment materials are endorsed by all participating countries.

What kinds of questions does PISA include?

PISA includes a mix of question types: some items require students to select appropriate responses, while others require that students solve problems and provide written answers. Examples of PISA assessment questions are available at <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pisa/educators.asp>.

Who is participating in PISA 2015?

Albania	Germany	New Zealand
Algeria	Greece	Norway
Argentina	Hong Kong-China	Peru
Australia	Hungary	Poland
Austria	Iceland	Portugal
Belgium	Indonesia	Qatar
Brazil	Ireland	Romania
Bulgaria	Israel	Russian Federation
Canada	Italy	Singapore
Chile	Japan	Slovak Republic
China	Jordan	Slovenia
Chinese Taipei	Kazakhstan	Spain
Colombia	Korea	Sweden
Costa Rica	Kosovo	Switzerland
Croatia	Latvia	Thailand
Czech Republic	Lebanon	Trinidad and Tobago
Denmark	Lithuania	Tunisia
Dominican Republic	Luxembourg	Turkey
Estonia	Macao-China	United Arab Emirates
Finland	Malaysia	United Kingdom
Former Yugoslav	Malta	United States
Republic of	Mexico	of America
Macedonia	Moldova	Uruguay
France	Montenegro	Vietnam
Georgia	Netherlands	

What organizations have endorsed PISA 2015?

- Council of Chief State School Officers
- National Association of Secondary School Principals
- Council for American Private Education
- National Science Teachers Association
- National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
- Association for Middle Level Education
- International Reading Association
- Alliance for Excellence in Education
- Council of Great City Schools
- American Federation of Teachers

How do I get more information?

Visit the PISA website at <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pisa>.
For additional questions about PISA 2015, contact the PISA U.S. home office at 1-888-638-2597 or email PISAHELP@westat.com.

NCES is authorized to conduct PISA under the Education Science Reform Act (ESRA 2002), 20 U.S. Code, Section 9543. Information collected will help the U.S. Department of Education’s ongoing efforts to benchmark student achievement in the United States. Participation is voluntary. Data collected may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose (20 U.S.C., § 9573). Individual responses will be combined with those from other participants to produce summary statistics and reports. The U.S. Office of Management and Budget has approved this data collection under OMB# 1850-0755.



Please feel free to contact the PISA U.S. home office with any questions via email at PISAHELP@westat.com or by calling 1-888-638-2597
O.M.B. No. 1850-0755



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PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

PISA 2015

What is PISA?

The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) is an international assessment of 15-year-old students, conducted every 3 years, that measures how well students apply their knowledge and skills in science, reading, and mathematics to problems in real-life contexts. In 2015, students from more than 70 countries and education systems, including the United States, will participate.

PISA is coordinated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and managed in the United States by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education.

Why is PISA important and what are the benefits of participating?

PISA provides a unique opportunity for the United States to understand its educational standing in comparison to other nations. Through participating in PISA, schools, teachers, and students contribute to the improvement of education.

PISA can help us identify U.S. students’ strengths and weaknesses in these subjects and learn about successful policies and practices that in other countries.



In addition to receiving a U.S. national report with PISA 2015 results, schools may also receive a school-level report. The school report presents comparisons of your school’s average scores with the average scores of participating education systems including the United States. The report also provides comparisons of your school with other similar U.S. schools based on specific school-level characteristics. PISA offers a modest token of appreciation to schools, the school coordinator, students, and teachers who participate. NCES also sponsors one delegate from each school to attend a summer conference in Washington, D.C. to learn about PISA.



What will schools, students, and teachers be asked to do in PISA 2015?

PISA 2015 has four primary components: (1) a core student assessment of science, mathematics, reading, and collaborative problem solving and a student questionnaire, (2) a financial literacy assessment administered to a sub-sample of students who take the core assessment, (3) an online school questionnaire, and (4) an online teacher questionnaire.

The principal of each school will be asked to appoint a staff member to act as the PISA school coordinator. The school coordinator will work with Westat staff to coordinate the assessment and submit student and teacher lists for sampling.

Up to 42 students in each school will be selected to participate in the core PISA assessment, which takes about 3 hours, including instructions, breaks, and a questionnaire. A sub-sample of up to 11 students in each school will be asked to return for an additional 1-hour assessment in financial literacy that will be held on the same day as the core assessment.

The principal of each school will also be asked to complete a 30-minute online questionnaire about school and student body characteristics and policies. Up to 25 teachers in each school will be asked to complete a 30-minute online teacher questionnaire about their background, education, and teaching experiences.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FOR PISA 2015				
	Mar–Aug 2015	Aug–Sep 2015 Preassessment Contact	Sep–Oct 2015 Assessment Visit	Benefits
Principal and Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify a school coordinator.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Complete an online School Questionnaire on the characteristics of the school.Complete an online Teacher Questionnaire on education and teaching experience.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Represent other similar U.S. schools.Receive U.S. national report with with PISA 2015 results.Schools will receive \$200 for participating.Teachers will receive \$20 for completing the teacher questionnaire.
School Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Select an assessment date convenient for your school.Arrange for the use of a classroom or an alternative quiet space for the assessment.Determine parent notification procedures.Provide list of eligible students and teachers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Notify teachers, selected students, and students’ parents of the study and benefits of participating.Coordinate the principal’s completion of the School Questionnaire.Coordinate the teachers’ completion of the Teacher Questionnaire.Confirm the date and location of the assessment for PISA staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Help ensure all sampled students attend the assessment.Meet with PISA staff after the assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Receive U.S. national report with PISA 2015 results.Receive \$200 for participating.Attend the PISA summer conference in Washington, D.C.
Students			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Take the assessment and complete a Student Questionnaire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Receive a Certificate of Volunteer Service for 4 hours of community service.Represent other U.S. students like themselves and contribute to the profile of what our nation’s students know and can do.Receive \$25 for participating. Students participating in the financial literacy assessment will receive an additional \$15.
PISA Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide school with materials explaining PISA and its importance.Work with the school coordinator to set an assessment date.Maintain school and student confidentiality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Call the school coordinator to discuss assessment day, space, and student participation.Select a random sample of eligible students and teachers to participate.Provide online access information for the teacher and school questionnaires to the school coordinator.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Conduct assessment from start to finish.Furnish all the assessment computers.Meet with school coordinator after the assessment.Pack up the materials to ensure that the assessments are complete and secure.	
Find Out More	http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pisa			