# OECD Program for International Student Assessment 2006 

|  | $/$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| Mon $\quad$ Day |  |

## SCHOOL QUESTIONNAIRE



Project Consortium:
Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER)
Netherlands National Institute for Educational Measurement (CITO)

This questionnaire asks for information including:

- The characteristics of the school;
- The student body;
- The school's resources;
- Staffing;
- The organization of the school;
- The environment in the curriculum;
- Career guidance and preparation of students for further education.

This information helps illustrate the similarities and differences between groups of schools in order to better establish the context for students' test results. For example, the information provided may help to establish the impact of resource distribution on student achievement - both within and between countries.

## What is meant by "science?"

PISA is an international study, and in order to make comparisons between students and schools in different countries, it is necessary to have a common definition of 'science'. For the purpose of this questionnaire, science refers only to the core science subjects of physics, chemistry, earth science and biology either taught in your curriculum as separate science subjects, or taught within a single 'integratedscience' subject. It does NOT include related subjects such as engineering, technology, mathematics, psychology, economics, nor possible earth science topics included in geography courses. If in doubt as to whether a school subject other than physics, chemistry, earth science, biology or integrated-science is science or not, treat the subject as NOT being science.

The questionnaire should be completed by the principal or designate. It should take about 30 minutes to complete.

If you do not know an answer precisely, your best estimate will be adequate for the purposes of the study.

A number of questions refer to tenth grade. If you do not have a tenth grade at your school then answer these questions for grade nine (or grade eight if you do not have grades nine or ten).

Your answers will be kept confidential. They will be combined with answers from other principals to calculate totals and averages in which no one school can be identified.

## SECTION A: THE STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL

Q1 As of September 25, 2006 what was the total school enrollment (number of students)?
(Please write a number in each line. Write 0 (zero) if there are none)
a) Number of boys: $\qquad$
b) Number of girls: $\qquad$

Q2 Is your school a public or a private school?
(Please check only one box)
A public school $\square$

A private school

## Q3 About what percentage of your total funding for a typical school year comes from the following sources?

(Please write a number in each row. Write 0 (zero) if no funding comes from that source)
a) Government (includes departments, local, regional, state and national)
b) Student fees or school charges paid by parents (e.g., tuition, fees for books, etc.)
c) Benefactors, donations, bequests, sponsorships, parent fund raising
d) Other

Total 100\%

Q4 Do you have the following grade levels in your school? (Please check one box in each row)
Yes No
a) Grade 1

$\square$
b) Grade 2

c) Grade 3

d) Grade 4

e) Grade 5

f) Grade 6

g) Grade 7

$\square$
h) Grade 8
i) Grade 9


j) Grade 10
k) Grade 11
l) Grade 12
m) Ungraded school

Q5 Approximately what percent of students at this school last year were eligible for free- or reduced-price lunches through the National School Lunch Program?
(Please write a number on the line. Write 0 (zero) if there are none)

Percent of
students
eligible:

## Q6 About what percentage of students in your school repeated a

 grade, at these levels, last academic year?(Please write a number in each row. Write 0 (zero) if nobody repeated a grade. Check the 'not available' box if the level does not exist in your school)
a) The approximate percentage of students repeating a grade at the middle/junior high school level (grades7-9) in this school last year was:

b) The approximate percentage of students repeating a grade at the high school level (grades 10-12) in this school last year was:


## Q7 What is the average size of English classes in tenth grade in your school?

(Please check only one box)

15 students or fewer
$\square_{01}$

16-20 students

21-25 students

26-30 students

31-35 students

36-40 students

41-45 students

46-50 students

More than 50 students

## Q8 Which of the following best describes the community in which your school is located?

(Please check only one box)
A village, hamlet or rural area (fewer than 3,000 people)

A small town (3,000 to about 15,000 people)


A town (15,000 to about 100,000 people)

A city (100,000 to about 1,000,000 people)


A large city (with over 1,000,000 people)

Q9 Some schools organize instruction differently for students with different abilities. What is your school's policy about this for students in tenth grade?
(Please check one box in each row)
For all

subjects \begin{tabular}{c}
For some <br>
subjects

$\quad$

Not for any <br>
subject
\end{tabular}

a) Students are grouped by ability into different classes



b) Students are grouped by ability within their classes

$\square$

## SECTION B: STAFFING

## Q10 How many of the following are on the staff of your school?

Include both full-time and part-time teachers. A full-time teacher is employed at least $90 \%$ of the time as a teacher for the full school year. All other teachers should be considered part-time.
(Please write a number in each space provided. Write 0 (zero) if there is none)

Full time Part time
a) Teachers in TOTAL
b) Teachers fully certified by the state in the main assignment field
c) Teachers with a bachelor's degree

## Q11 In the last academic year, did you fill all vacant tenth grade science teaching positions at your school?

See the preliminary note on the definition of science inside the front cover. A science teacher is defined as a teacher of the subject(s) which meet this definition.
(Please check only one box)

## Not applicable

(we had no vacant science teaching positions to be filled)

Yes
(we filled all vacant science teaching positions, either with newly appointed staff or by reassigning existing staff)

## No

(we could not fill one or more vacant science teaching positions)

## Q12 Regarding your school, who has a considerable responsibility for the following tasks?

(Please check as many boxes as appropriate in each row)
a) Selecting teachers for hire
b) Firing teachers


c) Establishing teachers’ starting salaries




d) Determining teachers' salaries increases




e) Formulating the school budget




f) Deciding on budget allocations within the school




g) Establishing student disciplinary policies




h) Establishing student assessment policies




i) Approving students for admission to the school




j) Choosing which textbooks are used



k) Determining course content

l) Deciding which courses are offered


## Q13 Regarding your school, which of the following bodies exert a direct influence on decision making about staffing, budgeting, instructional content and assessment practices?

(Please check as many boxes as apply)

Area of influence

Staffing Budgeting \begin{tabular}{c}
Instructional <br>
content

 

Assessment <br>
practices
\end{tabular}

a) District, state or national education authorities (e.g., Departments of Education)




b) Local school council, committee, or board




c) Parent groups




d) Teacher groups
(e.g. staff association, curriculum committees, trade



 union)
e) Student groups
(e.g. student association, youth organization)




f) External examination boards





## SECTION C: THE SCHOOL'S RESOURCES

Number
Q14a About how many computers are available in the school altogether?
(Please write 0 (zero) if there are none)
Q14b About how many of these computers are available for instruction?

Q14c About how many computers in the school are connected to the Internet/World Wide Web?

## Q15 Is your school's capacity to provide instruction hindered by any of the following?

(Please check one box in each row)

|  | Not at all | Very <br> little | To some extent | A lot |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a) A lack of qualified science teachers | $\square_{1}$ | $\square \square_{2}$ | $\square \square_{3}$ | $\square \square_{4}$ |
| b) A lack of qualified mathematics teachers | $\square \square_{1}$ | $\square \square_{2}$ | $\square 3$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| c) A lack of qualified English teachers | $\square \square_{1}$ | $\square \square_{2}$ | $\square 3$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| d) A lack of qualified teachers of other subjects | $\square \square_{1}$ | $\square \square_{2}$ | $\square \square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| e) A lack of laboratory technicians | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| f) A lack of other support personnel | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square{ }_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| g) Shortage or inadequacy of science laboratory equipment | $\square_{1}$ | $\square \square_{2}$ | $\square 3$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| h) Shortage or inadequacy of instructional materials (e.g. textbooks) | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square 3$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| i) Shortage or inadequacy of computers for instruction | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| j) Lack or inadequacy of Internet connectivity | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square{ }_{3}$ | $\square 4$ |
| k) Shortage or inadequacy of computer software for instruction | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square 3$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| l) Shortage or inadequacy of library materials | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square 3$ | $\square{ }_{4}$ |
| m) Shortage or inadequacy of audio-visual resources | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square{ }_{3}$ | $\square 4$ |

## SECTION D: ACCOUNTABILITY AND ADMISSION PRACTICES

## Q16 This set of questions explores aspects of the school's accountability to parents.

(Please check one box in each row)

Yes
No
a) Does your school provide information to parents of students in tenth grade on their child's academic performance relative to other students in tenth grade in your school?
b) Does your school provide information to parents of students in tenth grade on their child's academic performance relative to national or $\square_{1} \quad \square_{2}$ regional benchmarks?
c) Does your school provide information to parents on the academic performance of students in tenth grade as a group relative to students

 in the same grade in other schools?

## Q17 Which statement below best characterizes parental expectations towards your school?

## (Please check only one box)

There is constant pressure from many parents, who expect our school to set very high academic standards and to have our students achieve them

Pressure on the school to achieve higher academic standards among students comes from a minority of parents

Pressure from parents on the school to achieve higher academic standards among students is largely absent

## Q18 In your school, are achievement data used in any of the following ways?

Achievement data include aggregated school or grade-level test scores or grades, or graduation rates.
(Please check one box in each row)
a) Achievement data are posted publicly (e.g. in the media)
b) Achievement data are used in evaluation of the principal's performance

c) Achievement data are used in evaluation of teachers' performance


d) Achievement data are used in decisions about instructional resource allocation to the school

e) Achievement data are tracked over time by an administrative authority (such as a district, state, or national education agency)


Q19 We are interested in the options parents have when choosing a school for their children. Which of the following statements best describes the schooling available to students in your location? (Please check only one box)

There are two or more other schools in this area that compete for our students

There is one other school in this area that competes for our students

There are no other schools in this area that compete for our students

## Q20 How much consideration is given to the following factors when students are admitted to your school?

(Please check one box in each row)

|  | Prerequisite | $\underset{\text { priority }}{\text { High }}$ | Considered | Not considered |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a) Residence in a particular area | $\square 1$ | $\square \square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square 4$ |
| b) Student's academic record (including placement tests) | $\square_{1}$ | $\square{ }_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square 4$ |
| c) Recommendation of feeder schools | $\square_{1}$ | $\square{ }_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square 4$ |
| d) Parents' endorsement of the instructional or religious philosophy of the school | $\square_{1}$ | $\square{ }_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square 4$ |
| e) Student's need or desire for a special program | $\square_{1}$ | $\square{ }_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |

f) Attendance of other family members at the school (past or present)

## SECTION E: SCIENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Q21 Is your school involved in any of the following activities to promote engagement with science among students in tenth grade?
(Please check one box in each row)
a) Science clubs

No
b) Science fairs
Yes


$\square$

Science competitions other than
c) school science fairs (e.g., Science Olympiads, Siemens Westinghouse Competition, etc.)
d) Extracurricular science projects (including research)


e) Excursions and field trips


$\square_{1}$ $\square$

## Q22 Where do topics on the environment sit in the curriculum received by students in tenth grade at your school?

Environmental topics include all topics related to environmental science. These may include environmental issues such as pollution or the degradation of the environment. Relationships between organisms, biodiversity and conservation of resources would also be examples of environmental topics.
(Please check one box in each row. If there are no topics on the environment in the curriculum received by students in tenth grade please check "No" in all four rows)
a) In a specific environmental studies course

Yes
No
$\square{ }_{1}$ $\square_{2}$
b) In the natural sciences courses - for example as part of biology, chemistry, physics, earth science or within an integrated science course
c) As part of a geography course
d) As part of another course

Q23 Does your school organize any of the following activities to provide opportunities to students in tenth grade to learn about environmental topics?
(Please check one box in each row)
Yes No
a) Outdoor education (e.g., field trips to natural areas)


b) Trips to museums
c) Trips to science and/or technology centers

d) Extracurricular environmental projects (including research)

e) Lectures and/or seminars (e.g. guest speakers)


## SECTION F: CAREERS AND FURTHER EDUCATION

Q24 How often would students in tenth grade have the opportunity to participate in the activities below as part of their normal schooling?
(Please check one box in each row)

|  | Never | Once a <br> year | More than <br> once a year |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a) Job fairs | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ |
| b) Lectures (at school) by business or industry |  |  |  |
| representatives | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square$ |
| c) Visits to local businesses or industries | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ |

Q25 In your school, about how many students in tenth grade receive some training within local businesses as part of school activities during the normal school year (e.g. apprenticeships)? (Please check only one box)

This is not offered to students in tenth grade

Half or less of students in tenth grade $\square$

More than a half of students in tenth grade $\square$

## Q26 Thinking about the curriculum received by students in tenth grade, which statement below is closest to your view?

(Please check only one box)
Business and industry have no influence on the curriculum

Business and industry have a minor or indirect influence on the curriculum $\square_{2}$

Business and industry have a considerable influence on the curriculum

Q27 To what extent do you feel that teachers in your school concentrate on developing in students the skills and knowledge that will help them progress towards sciencerelated careers?

Science-related career has been used here to include careers that involve a considerable amount of science but are beyond the traditional idea of a scientist as someone who works in a laboratory or academic environment (like a nuclear physicist). As such, a science-related career is not only one in physics, chemistry or biology. Any career that involves postsecondary education in a scientific field is considered science-related. Therefore careers like engineer (involving physics), weather forecaster (involving earth science), optician (involving biology and physics), and medical doctors (involving the medical sciences) are all examples of sciencerelated careers.
(Please check only one box)
These skills and knowledge are not a major part of teachers' pedagogical activities

These skills and knowledge are integrated into teachers' pedagogical activities, but they are not emphasized

These skills and knowledge are a focus of teachers’ pedagogical activities

## Q28 To what extent do you feel that teachers in your school concentrate on developing in students the skills and knowledge that will help them in postsecondary education?

(Please check only one box)

These skills and knowledge are not a major part of teachers’ pedagogical activities

These skills and knowledge are integrated into teachers’ pedagogical activities, but they are not emphasized

These skills and knowledge are a focus of teachers' pedagogical activities

## Q29 Who has the main responsibility for career guidance of students in tenth grade at your school?

(Please check only one box)

Not applicable, career guidance is not available in this school

All teachers share the responsibility for career guidance

Specific teachers have the main responsibility for career guidance

We have one or more specific career guidance counsellors employed at school

We have one or more specific career guidance counsellors who regularly visit the school

Q30 If career guidance is available at your school, which of the statements below best describes the situation for students in tenth grade?

Skip this question if career guidance is not available at your school. (Please check only one box)

Career guidance is sought voluntarily by students $\square$

Career guidance is formally scheduled into students' time at school $\square$

## Thank you for your co-operation

