

What will students be asked to do?

Students will be asked to take part in a 3-hour session during which they will take the assessment and complete a questionnaire about their backgrounds and attitudes toward reading. Students will receive a \$20 stipend for participating. Participation is voluntary but important because each student represents many other students across the United States. A student's responses will be kept completely confidential, and individual responses will not be presented in any report or publication.

What countries are participating in PISA 2009?

Europe

United Kingdom
Ireland
Iceland
Portugal
Spain
France
Belgium
The Netherlands
Luxembourg
Germany
Denmark
Norway
Sweden
Finland
Switzerland
Liechtenstein
Austria
Italy
Slovenia
Poland
Czech Republic
Slovak Republic
Hungary

Croatia
Republic of Montenegro
Republic of Serbia
Greece
Albania
Bulgaria
Romania
Estonia
Latvia
Lithuania
Azerbaijan
Russian Federation

North and South America

Canada
United States
Mexico
Dominican Republic
Trinidad and Tobago
Panama
Colombia
Brazil
Uruguay

Peru
Argentina
Chile

Asia-Pacific and Africa

Tunisia
Turkey
Israel
Jordan
Qatar
Kyrgyz Republic
Kazakhstan
Shanghai (China)
Hong Kong-China
Macao-China
Singapore
Chinese Taipei
Thailand
Korea
Japan
Indonesia
Australia
New Zealand



How do I get more information?

Visit the PISA website

<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pisa>

For questions about the PISA 2009 Field Test,
Call the PISA Information Hotline at: 1-888-270-6227

Or send an e-mail to: PISA2009@westat.com



Program for International Student Assessment

FIELD TEST

Program for International Student Assessment

PISA 2009

What is PISA?

The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) is an international assessment for 15-year-olds. In 2009, students from more than 60 countries, including the United States, will participate. PISA measures how well students apply their knowledge and skills in reading, mathematics, and science literacy to problems within a real-life context.

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

PISA, which began in 2000, is conducted every three years. PISA 2009 will include an in-depth assessment of reading, as well as shorter assessments of mathematics and science. In addition, PISA 2009 will collect information on students' backgrounds, attitudes towards reading, and learning strategies. School principals also will be asked to provide information on school demographic characteristics and the learning environment in the school.

Why is PISA important?

In light of concerns about our international economic competitiveness and changing workforce, knowing how our students compare with peers around the world is valuable information. PISA can show us where we have been successful and where we face challenges in educating our youth.

PISA also compares U.S. student performance over time and across different segments of U.S. students to document progress. PISA examines

the relationships between performance and instruction by gathering data from students about classroom experiences. With these outcomes, PISA can suggest ways to improve the quality of education for U.S. students.

What is the purpose of the field test?

In each PISA administration, new assessment items need to be developed and tested to ensure that those items accurately measure the knowledge and skills of students. In the Spring of 2008, new reading items will be field-tested by 1,200 students in approximately 35 schools around the United States. This field test will allow test developers to modify or delete items that are not working. The field test will also provide valuable information about ways to reduce the time and effort required of schools and students to participate in PISA.

What is the nature of the assessment items?

PISA 2009 will focus on reading, and all of the new items being tested in the field test assess the reading knowledge and skills of students. Students will be asked to read various types of materials (for example, a script for a play, a newspaper editorial) and then answer questions about what they have read. The questions consist of a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and short essay questions.

