

## Program for International Student Assessment PISA 2009

### Summary of Activities for Schools

#### **Will the school, staff members, and students receive compensation for their time and effort?**

Yes. For your participation in the PISA 2009 field test, your school will receive a \$200 cash stipend. Also, schools will be asked to designate a School Coordinator to work with PISA staff on within-school arrangements. The School Coordinator will receive a \$100 stipend. Students who participate in the assessment will receive a \$20 cash stipend, if such payments are approved by the school principal.

#### **When will data collection take place?**

The field test will take place during the period from March 17 to April 30, 2008. A PISA staff member will work with your school to establish a convenient date for the assessment.

#### **Who will be asked to take part in the field test assessment?**

PISA staff will work with you to select a random sample of up to 42 15-year-olds in your school. These students will be tested in a group.

#### **Who conducts the assessment?**

Trained PISA staff will administer the assessment and provide all the required materials. Thus, teachers will not need to set aside time for the assessment.

#### **What is involved for school staff and students?**

- Schools will be asked to designate a School Coordinator to work with PISA staff on within-school arrangements.
- The school principal or a designee will be asked to complete a 30-minute school questionnaire that asks about characteristics of the school and its environment.
- Students will be asked to take part in an assessment that is broken into two parts. The first part is a reading assessment that will last about 2 hours and is separated into two sessions with a break in the middle. After another break, students will be asked to complete a Student Questionnaire, which will take about 30 minutes.

#### **What is involved for the School Coordinator?**

*During the Winter of 2008*, the School Coordinator will be asked to:

- Provide a list of all 15-year-old students in the school;
- Review parent notification requirements; and
- Work with PISA staff to schedule the assessment and secure a large, quiet space for testing.

*During March-April, 2008*, the School Coordinator will be asked to:

- Work with PISA staff to identify students with special needs who will not be asked to participate in the assessment;
- Notify parents, teachers, and students concerning the students who have been selected to take part and the benefits of participation;
- Confirm the final list of the sampled students;
- Confirm the date and location for the testing;
- Receive the school questionnaire and distribute and collect it from the principal or designee; and
- Remind the students of the time and place of the assessment.

*On assessment day*, the School Coordinator will be asked to:

- Ensure that the testing room is available and set up for testing; and
- Provide assistance to ensure that all selected students attend the assessment session.

It is extremely important that attendance rates be high in order to avoid the need for a makeup session.

## More Information on PISA

### What is PISA?

PISA is an international assessment designed by participating countries and administered to 15-year-old students in school around the world. PISA reports on performance in reading, mathematics, and science literacy every three years, with emphasis on one subject in each data collection cycle. PISA began in 2000 focusing on reading literacy. PISA focused on mathematics literacy in 2003 and science literacy in 2006. In 2009, reading literacy again will be the primary focus. Educators throughout the U.S. benefit from PISA by having a greater understanding of how 15-year-olds in the U.S. compare in terms of reading, mathematics, and science knowledge and skills with similar students worldwide.

### What is the purpose of the field test?

Each time the assessment is done, new assessment items need to be developed and tested to assure that those items accurately measure the knowledge and skills of students. In the Spring of 2008, new reading items will be tested in approximately 35 schools and with approximately 1,200 students in the U.S. This field test will allow test developers to modify or delete items that are not working effectively. The field test will also provide valuable information about efficient assessment procedures.

### Do schools and students have to participate?

Although participation is voluntary, it is important that every selected school and student participate to ensure the completeness and accuracy of results. The validity of results depends upon a high response rate.

### What confidentiality protections are included in the assessment?

The list of schools and students included in the field test will be confidential. Student names will not be linked to assessment results or questionnaire responses on any data files (unique ID numbers will be used), and individual student scores or responses will never be reported.

If you have any questions about the PISA field test, please feel free to contact the PISA staff at [PISA2009@westat.com](mailto:PISA2009@westat.com) or on the toll-free number, 1-888-270-6227.

