To: Shelly Martinez, OMB

From: Daniel McGrath, NCES

Date: July 14, 2009

Subject: Change request for PISA 2009 incentive plan (**1850-0755 v.7)**

This memorandum describes issues encountered with securing school participation in the PISA 2009 assessment and requests changes to the approved PISA 2009 incentive plan (**1850-0755 v.7)** to encourage higher response rates so that the United States can meet international sampling requirements and be included in the reported PISA results, and to improve comparability of incentives and stipends across schools. The proposed changes are consistent with the final incentive plan used for PISA 2006. NCES is requesting two changes: (1) increase the incentive for refusing schools unable to attend the recent PISA summer conference for participating schools to the average amount spent on schools that attended the conference ($1500); and (2) increase the stipends for school coordinators (to $300) and students (to $75) in schools conducting the assessment out of school hours to better reflect the opportunity cost of their participation.

**Background**

The minimum allowable response rates for schools and students in PISA are as follows:

* 65 percent of originally sampled schools (if replacement schools are also used to supplement the sample; if replacement schools are not used, the minimum response rate is 85 percent of originally sampled schools—the United States includes replacement schools and so our minimum allowable rate is 65 percent of originally sampled schools).
* 80% student response rate (additionally, with respect to student response rates, schools with student response rates below 50% are not regarded as participating schools).

The data of countries that do not attain the minimum response rates are not included in international PISA results or in the international PISA database. In each of the past PISA administrations, the United States has barely achieved the minimum school response rate.[[1]](#footnote-1) Other countries have not been so fortunate, including the United Kingdom in 2003 and the Netherlands in 2000, which failed to reach minimum school response rates and were not included in the international reports or databases. The United States will spend approximately $10 million[[2]](#footnote-2) on PISA 2009, and so the potential loss if we fail to attain the minimum response rates is large.

Historically, meeting the minimum original school response rate has been difficult for the United States.  In 2000 and 2003, the United States barely met the international requirements for school response rates. As a result, in 2006, we introduced extra measures not implemented in PISA 2000 or 2003 that were intended to increase school response rates: holding a conference in Washington, DC for participating schools in the summer before PISA’s administration to provide them the opportunity to learn more about how PISA data are used to inform education policy and how the PISA assessment is administered in schools, and offering the option of administering the PISA assessment outside of school hours. Although we believe these measures were very useful in securing school participation, when it became clear that the United States was in danger of not reaching the minimum school response rate even with these inducements, the incentive plan was modified. It was modified in two ways: (1) to allow NCES to offer refusing schools that did not attend the summer conference an additional incentive equal to the average amount spent on schools that participated in the conference and (2) to allow NCES to offer larger stipends to school coordinators and students in schools participating outside of school hours to reflect the higher opportunity costs associated with outside school hours administration and facilitate high student participation. These measures were intended to increase response rates and to enhance fairness in the incentive plan.

In 2009, we used a similar incentive plan as the original plan used in 2006. The modifications to the 2006 incentive plan were not included in the original 2009 incentive plan in the hopes that the school response rate at the time of the summer conference would be sufficiently high that additional recruitment of original schools would not be required after the summer conference and that a high percentage of original schools would opt for administration within school hours (the overall burden to the school is thought to be lower for administration within school hours than outside school hours and it can be difficult to secure sufficiently high student participation outside school hours). Indeed, recruitment began a full year before data collection and included extraordinary measures such as the direct involvement of state officials in district and school recruitment.

However, NCES has just held the summer conference and school response rates are low and in danger of falling below the minimum allowable rate. To date, 66 percent (137 of 209) of the original sample schools have agreed to participate, which means that the United States is just barely meeting the required international minimum response rate for original schools. In the past month, 10 schools that had previously agreed to participate have notified the U.S. PISA contractor that they will now *not* be able to participate. NCES is concerned that more schools will back out in the coming months. Losing even 2 additional schools will bring the U.S. school response rate below the required international standard.

As in the past years, schools are reluctant to participate because PISA is not mandatory, schools do not want to lose instructional time, already feel overburdened by assessments, and see relatively little immediate benefit for themselves. This year, difficulties in gaining school participation have been especially acute. We have heard from field staff and from participants at the summer conference that the economic downturn is creating heightened concern with the burden and the uncertainty of having staff in place to coordinate the assessment.

As described in the PISA 2009 OMB clearance package, NCES and its contractors have already taken a number of steps to encourage school participation in PISA 2009, including the following.

* Burden on schools in terms of the information and actions requested prior to the assessment are kept to a minimum.
* The assessment is being administered in the fall, rather than the spring.
* After school or Saturday administration of PISA is allowed to provide greater flexibility to schools.
* Schools receive $200 as compensation for participating.
* The PISA school coordinators are provided a $100 reimbursement for carrying out administrative tasks in preparation for the test administration that will be carried out by the PISA contractor (coordinate logistics with the data collection contractor; supply a list of eligible students for sampling to the data collection contractor; communicate with teachers, students, and parents about the study to encourage participation; assist the test administrator in ensuring the sampled students attend the testing session; and assist the test administrator in arranging for make-up sessions as needed).
* Each student is offered $20 if they complete PISA assessment during school hours and $35 if they complete it during after school hours or on Saturday.
* NCES hosted a conference—PISA Comes to Your School—in Washington, DC, June 25-26, 2009, for participating schools. The purpose of the conference was to inform school representatives about PISA, to explain how PISA results are used, and to motivate schools’ participation in the fall 2009 data collection. The PISA 2006 summer conference was a big success in terms of keeping the schools' promises of their participation in the fall. We believe that PISA 2009 summer conference will serve the same purpose. Representative from 87 schools attended the conference.
* At NCES’s request, Arne Duncan, the U.S. Secretary of Education, sent a letter in June 2009 to superintendents of districts that oversee schools in the original PISA 2009 sample to encourage their participation. This extraordinary measure was taken because the United States is in jeopardy of not meeting the international standards. Secretary Duncan also addressed the school representatives at the PISA Comes to Your School conference, another effort to encourage schools to stay engaged in PISA assessment.

Unfortunately, these measures designed to encourage school participation in PISA are proving insufficient in 2009, and the United States is only two schools away from falling below the minimum original school response rate. During the 2009 summer conference, one school representative in the public question and answer session stated that schools consider monetary incentives when faced with budgeting uncertainty. This statement was echoed in informal discussions with other school representatives during the conference and during recruitment when field staff talked with school representatives about participating. Revising the incentive plan provides the best chance for increasing the participation rate of the original schools from the PISA sample, in particular among schools considered to be final refusals. Not taking strong steps to increase the participation of these schools will very likely result in the United States being excluded from the international reporting, which would result in a loss of $10 million invested by the United States in PISA 2009, a loss in the time invested by participating schools and students, as well as the loss of the comparative data the United States is seeking through the project.

**Changes to Incentive Plan**

The specific changes proposed by NCES are listed below. The goal in proposing these changes is to be flexible with regards to the needs of the refusing schools in order to encourage them to reconsider participating in PISA 2009 and to enhance comparability in incentives. The proposed changes would enhance comparability in incentives by offering late accepting schools the cash equivalent of the summer conference which was offered to schools that accepted in time for the conference, and by offering school coordinators and students that participate outside school hours stipends that reflect the added opportunity cost of participating outside the school day.

1. *Offer refusing original sample schools up to $1,500*. This amount is equivalent to the amount that refusing schools would have received if they had participated in the June 2009 PISA Comes to Your School conference, held for the precise purpose of encouraging schools’ participation in the study. In 2006, we also offered refusing schools $1,500 (the amount spent on each school that attended the conference) and were able to get 11 additional original schools to agree to participate, bringing our original schools response rate (and, in turn, final school response rate) above the minimum required. Schools could choose to use these funds in the manner they consider appropriate for supporting their school program and/or the implementation of PISA.
2. *Increase school coordinator and student incentives.* As the PISA data collection proceeds, there may also be a great difficulty in obtaining high enough student response rates in individual schools (and, in turn, a sufficient school response rate given that the student response rate must be 50 percent or higher for a school to be considered a participating school). This was the case in 2006 when the incentives for PISA school coordinators and students had to be revised in the midst of data collection. In 2006, in the final days of the administration period, the incentive for school coordinators in schools conducting Saturday assessments was increased to $300 to compensate for additional time spent getting students to attend the testing session, and the incentive for students was increased to $75 to encourage their participation. NCES proposes to offer similar incentives should the student response rate jeopardize our school response rate, as we approach the end of data collection. Requesting a change to incentives in the middle of data collection creates an emergency that is risky with regards to the final outcomes. It would be more prudent to have approval to increase the PISA school coordinators and students incentives in the event that the appropriate student response rate is not being achieved.

In sum, NCES is extremely concerned that the United States will not meet the international standards for response rates. If these are not met, PISA results for the United States will be considered invalid and will not be published. For this reason, as well as interest in improving fairness in the incentive plan by providing all participating schools the same compensation (under the existing plan, currently refusing schools that ultimately agree to participate will not have participated in the conference), NCES is proposing to revise the approved incentive plan to encourage greater school and student participation, as outlined above.

At the conclusion of the data collection period NCES will prepare a report to OMB that explicates which incentives were offered to schools, school coordinators and students (including how many entities received which incentives) and the outcomes in terms of participation in PISA.

**Table A2.3 - Response rates**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Initial sample - before school replacement** |
| **(1)** | **(2)** | **(3)** | **(4)** | **(5)** |
| **Weighted school participation rate before replacement (%)** | **Weighted number of responding schools (weighted also by enrolment)** | **Weighted number of schools sampled (responding and non-responding)(weighted also by enrolment)** | **Number of responding schools (unweighted)** | **Number of responding and non-responding schools (unweighted)** |
| **OECD** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Australia | 98.40 |  247 212 |  251 222 |  349 |  356 |
| Austria | 98.77 |  91 471 |  92 606 |  197 |  203 |
| Belgium | 81.54 |  100 785 |  123 597 |  236 |  288 |
| Canada | 83.20 |  348 248 |  418 565 |  850 |  941 |
| Czech Republic | 72.87 |  91 281 |  125 259 |  198 |  264 |
| Denmark | 87.24 |  49 865 |  57 156 |  189 |  218 |
| Finland | 100.00 |  65 086 |  65 086 |  155 |  155 |
| France | 96.68 |  732 366 |  757 512 |  179 |  187 |
| Germany | 98.15 |  932 815 |  950 350 |  223 |  227 |
| Greece | 92.51 |  96 973 |  104 827 |  176 |  192 |
| Hungary | 94.70 |  108 354 |  114 425 |  180 |  189 |
| Iceland | 98.35 |  4 819 |  4 900 |  135 |  151 |
| Ireland | 100.00 |  57 245 |  57 245 |  164 |  164 |
| Italy | 90.53 |  564 533 |  623 570 |  753 |  874 |
| Japan | 87.27 | 1 032 152 | 1 182 688 |  171 |  196 |
| Korea | 99.24 |  572 256 |  576 637 |  153 |  155 |
| Luxembourg | 100.00 |  4 955 |  4 955 |  31 |  31 |
| Mexico | 95.46 | 1 281 867 | 1 342 898 |  1 115 |  1 184 |
| Netherlands | 75.70 |  151 039 |  199 533 |  146 |  194 |
| New Zealand | 91.69 |  54 182 |  59 090 |  162 |  179 |
| Norway | 90.47 |  54 613 |  60 369 |  193 |  213 |
| Poland | 95.41 |  507 651 |  532 061 |  209 |  222 |
| Portugal | 94.87 |  94 835 |  99 961 |  165 |  174 |
| Slovak Republic | 92.42 |  70 860 |  76 671 |  170 |  190 |
| Spain | 98.2626 |  416 539 |  423 904 |  682 |  686 |
| Sweden | 99.59 |  126 611 |  127 133 |  197 |  199 |
| Switzerland | 95.44 |  77 940 |  81 660 |  496 |  512 |
| Turkey | 97.16 |  773 777 |  796 371 |  155 |  160 |
| United Kingdom | 76.05 |  569 438 |  748 796 |  439 |  587 |
| United States | 68.95 | 2 689 741 | 3 901 131 |  145 |  209 |
| **Partners** |  |   |  |   |   |
| Argentina | 95.08 |  547 775 |  576 125 |  168 |  179 |
| Azerbaijan | 94.86 |  123 718 |  130 423 |  163 |  172 |
| Brazil | 98.01 | 2 300 530 | 2 347 346 |  606 |  629 |
| Bulgaria | 98.76 |  82 248 |  83 281 |  178 |  180 |
| Chile | 83.08 |  207 183 |  249 370 |  161 |  196 |
| Chinese Taipei | 98.03 |  420 165 |  428 630 |  235 |  240 |
| Colombia | 93.53 |  500 567 |  535 166 |  154 |  167 |
| Croatia | 98.59 |  48 081 |  48 768 |  159 |  163 |
| Estonia | 98.98 |  19 071 |  19 267 |  167 |  169 |
| Hong Kong-China | 68.57 |  52 768 |  76 956 |  106 |  156 |
| Indonesia | 99.72 | 2 249 728 | 2 256 019 |  349 |  352 |
| Israel | 89.89 |  95 231 |  105 941 |  139 |  167 |
| Jordan | 100.00 |  99 088 |  99 088 |  210 |  210 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 99.58 |  89 863 |  90 240 |  200 |  201 |
| Latvia | 97.57 |  31 740 |  32 532 |  171 |  175 |
| Liechtenstein | 100.00 |  362 |  362 |  12 |  12 |
| Lithuania | 96.85 |  48 989 |  50 584 |  190 |  197 |
| Macao-China | 100.00 |  6 608 |  6 608 |  43 |  43 |
| Montenegro | 94.64 |  7 363 |  7 780 |  49 |  51 |
| Qatar | 98.02 |  7 260 |  7 407 |  128 |  137 |
| Romania | 100.00 |  231 533 |  231 533 |  174 |  174 |
| Russian Federation | 100.00 | 1 848 221 | 1 848 221 |  209 |  209 |
| Serbia | 98.67 |  76 534 |  77 568 |  160 |  163 |
| Slovenia | 97.42 |  21 983 |  22 565 |  355 |  365 |
| Thailand | 97.70 |  705 353 |  721 963 |  208 |  212 |
| Tunisia | 100.00 |  153 009 |  153 009 |  152 |  152 |
| Uruguay | 96.30 |  38 378 |  39 854 |  270 |  280 |

Source: OECD (2007). *PISA 2006 Science Competencies for Tomorrow's World, Volume I.* Paris: Author.

**Table A2.3 - Response rates (cont.)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Final sample - after school replacement** |
| **(6)** | **(7)** | **(8)** | **(9)** | **(10)** |
| **Weighted school participation rate after replacement (%)** | **Weighted number of responding schools (weighted also by enrolment)** | **Weighted number of schools sampled (responding and non-responding)(weighted also by enrolment)** | **Number of responding schools (unweighted)** | **Number of responding and non-responding schools (unweighted)** |
| **OECD** |   |   |   |   |   |
| Australia | 98.85 |  248 321 |  251 222 |  350 |  356 |
| Austria | 98.77 |  91 471 |  92 606 |  197 |  203 |
| Belgium | 93.59 |  115 646 |  123 563 |  269 |  288 |
| Canada | 86.23 |  360 867 |  418 514 |  861 |  941 |
| Czech Republic | 93.87 |  117 526 |  125 202 |  244 |  264 |
| Denmark | 96.47 |  55 068 |  57 085 |  209 |  218 |
| Finland | 100.00 |  65 086 |  65 086 |  155 |  155 |
| France | 96.68 |  732 366 |  757 512 |  179 |  187 |
| Germany | 99.05 |  941 356 |  950 350 |  225 |  227 |
| Greece | 99.35 |  104 124 |  104 810 |  189 |  192 |
| Hungary | 100.00 |  114 266 |  114 266 |  189 |  189 |
| Iceland | 98.35 |  4 819 |  4 900 |  135 |  151 |
| Ireland | 100.00 |  57 245 |  57 245 |  164 |  164 |
| Italy | 97.47 |  607 860 |  623 619 |  796 |  874 |
| Japan | 92.38 | 1 092 616 | 1 182 688 |  181 |  196 |
| Korea | 99.89 |  575 984 |  576 637 |  154 |  155 |
| Luxembourg | 100.00 |  4 955 |  4 955 |  31 |  31 |
| Mexico | 96.20 | 1 291 872 | 1 342 898 |  1 128 |  1 184 |
| Netherlands | 94.25 |  187 953 |  199 423 |  183 |  194 |
| New Zealand | 96.06 |  56 762 |  59 090 |  170 |  179 |
| Norway | 95.40 |  57 582 |  60 359 |  203 |  213 |
| Poland | 99.99 |  532 150 |  532 197 |  221 |  222 |
| Portugal | 98.73 |  98 593 |  99 863 |  172 |  174 |
| Slovak Republic | 99.93 |  76 865 |  76 920 |  188 |  190 |
| Spain | 100 |  424 621 |  424 621 |  686 |  686 |
| Sweden | 99.59 |  126 611 |  127 133 |  197 |  199 |
| Switzerland | 99.09 |  81 345 |  82 095 |  509 |  512 |
| Turkey | 100.00 |  794 826 |  794 826 |  160 |  160 |
| United Kingdom | 88.15 |  660 503 |  749 270 |  494 |  587 |
| United States | 79.09 | 3 085 548 | 3 901 521 |  166 |  209 |
| **Partners** |   |   |  |   |   |
| Argentina | 96.19 |  554 186 |  576 125 |  171 |  179 |
| Azerbaijan | 99.37 |  129 952 |  130 775 |  171 |  172 |
| Brazil | 99.24 | 2 329 154 | 2 346 988 |  617 |  629 |
| Bulgaria | 99.35 |  82 548 |  83 092 |  179 |  180 |
| Chile | 87.89 |  219 082 |  249 283 |  173 |  196 |
| Chinese Taipei | 98.10 |  420 394 |  428 529 |  236 |  240 |
| Colombia | 99.22 |  530 585 |  534 764 |  165 |  167 |
| Croatia | 99.80 |  48 727 |  48 823 |  161 |  163 |
| Estonia | 100.00 |  19 261 |  19 261 |  169 |  169 |
| Hong Kong-China | 93.76 |  72 564 |  77 392 |  146 |  156 |
| Indonesia | 100.00 | 2 256 019 | 2 256 019 |  352 |  352 |
| Israel | 93.45 |  99 541 |  106 520 |  149 |  167 |
| Jordan | 100.00 |  99 088 |  99 088 |  210 |  210 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 100.00 |  90 240 |  90 240 |  201 |  201 |
| Latvia | 100.00 |  32 532 |  32 532 |  175 |  175 |
| Liechtenstein | 100.00 |  362 |  362 |  12 |  12 |
| Lithuania | 100.00 |  50 584 |  50 584 |  197 |  197 |
| Macao-China | 100.00 |  6 608 |  6 608 |  43 |  43 |
| Montenegro | 94.64 |  7 363 |  7 780 |  49 |  51 |
| Qatar | 98.02 |  7 260 |  7 407 |  128 |  137 |
| Romania | 100.00 |  231 533 |  231 533 |  174 |  174 |
| Russian Federation | 100.00 | 1 848 221 | 1 848 221 |  209 |  209 |
| Serbia | 99.96 |  77 539 |  77 568 |  162 |  163 |
| Slovenia | 97.71 |  22 049 |  22 565 |  356 |  365 |
| Thailand | 100.00 |  721 552 |  721 552 |  212 |  212 |
| Tunisia | 100.00 |  153 009 |  153 009 |  152 |  152 |
| Uruguay | 96.30 |  38 378 |  39 854 |  270 |  280 |

Source: OECD (2007). *PISA 2006 Science Competencies for Tomorrow's World, Volume I.* Paris: Author.

**Table A2.3 - Response rates (cont.)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Final sample - students within schools after school replacement** |
| **(11)** | **(12)** | **(13)** | **(14)** | **(15)** |
| **Weighted student participation rate after replacement (%)** | **Number of students assessed(weighted)** | **Number of students sampled(assessed and absent)(weighted)** | **Number of students assessed(unweighted)** | **Number of students sampled(assessed and absent)(unweighted)** |
| **OECD** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Australia | 86.30 |  200 410 |  232 221 |  14 071 |  16 590 |
| Austria | 90.81 |  80 765 |  88 942 |  4 925 |  5 542 |
| Belgium | 92.98 |  107 247 |  115 343 |  8 857 |  9 492 |
| Canada | 81.43 |  258 789 |  317 822 |  22 201 |  26 329 |
| Czech Republic | 90.62 |  110 435 |  121 869 |  5 927 |  6 560 |
| Denmark | 89.51 |  49 249 |  55 018 |  4 510 |  5 035 |
| Finland | 92.78 |  56 954 |  61 387 |  4 714 |  5 082 |
| France | 89.78 |  641 681 |  714 695 |  4 684 |  5 218 |
| Germany | 92.26 |  825 350 |  894 612 |  4 884 |  5 294 |
| Greece | 95.24 |  91 494 |  96 070 |  4 871 |  5 116 |
| Hungary | 93.12 |  98 716 |  106 010 |  4 490 |  4 823 |
| Iceland | 83.32 |  3 781 |  4 538 |  3 781 |  4 538 |
| Ireland | 83.75 |  46 160 |  55 114 |  4 585 |  5 469 |
| Italy | 92.30 |  467 291 |  506 270 |  21 753 |  23 465 |
| Japan | 99.55 | 1 028 039 | 1 032 727 |  5 952 |  5 971 |
| Korea | 99.04 |  570 786 |  576 314 |  5 176 |  5 229 |
| Luxembourg | 96.49 |  4 567 |  4 733 |  4 567 |  4 733 |
| Mexico | 96.40 | 1 101 670 | 1 142 760 |  30 885 |  32 119 |
| Netherlands | 90.15 |  161 900 |  179 592 |  4 848 |  5 375 |
| New Zealand | 87.03 |  44 638 |  51 291 |  4 823 |  5 535 |
| Norway | 87.81 |  50 232 |  57 205 |  4 692 |  5 345 |
| Poland | 91.70 |  473 144 |  515 945 |  5 547 |  6 074 |
| Portugal | 86.74 |  77 053 |  88 828 |  5 092 |  5 862 |
| Slovak Republic | 93.19 |  70 837 |  76 011 |  4 729 |  5 095 |
| Spain | 88.48 |  337 710 |  381 686 |  19 604 |  21 328 |
| Sweden | 91.37 |  115 210 |  126 095 |  4 443 |  4 851 |
| Switzerland | 94.94 |  84 366 |  88 861 |  12 191 |  12 778 |
| Turkey | 97.59 |  649 451 |  665 477 |  4 942 |  5 057 |
| United Kingdom | 87.65 |  565 955 |  645 688 |  13 050 |  15 182 |
| United States | 91.00 | 2 589 680 | 2 845 841 |  5 611 |  6 179 |
| **Partners** |   |   |  |   |   |
| Argentina | 89.31 |  447 966 |  501 589 |  4 297 |  4 854 |
| Azerbaijan | 98.02 |  119 024 |  121 433 |  5 184 |  5 284 |
| Brazil | 90.83 | 1 692 354 | 1 863 114 |  9 246 |  10 408 |
| Bulgaria | 94.47 |  69 821 |  73 907 |  4 498 |  4 768 |
| Chile | 93.72 |  192 205 |  205 089 |  5 233 |  5 585 |
| Chinese Taipei | 97.75 |  283 168 |  289 675 |  8 815 |  8 988 |
| Colombia | 93.89 |  500 459 |  533 020 |  4 478 |  4 787 |
| Croatia | 95.63 |  44 400 |  46 431 |  5 213 |  5 455 |
| Estonia | 94.89 |  17 708 |  18 662 |  4 865 |  5 119 |
| Hong Kong-China | 91.51 |  64 124 |  70 071 |  4 645 |  5 073 |
| Indonesia | 97.81 | 2 199 184 | 2 248 313 |  10 647 |  10 918 |
| Israel | 90.57 |  79 246 |  87 498 |  4 584 |  5 058 |
| Jordan | 96.26 |  86 890 |  90 267 |  6 509 |  6 791 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 97.08 |  78 319 |  80 674 |  5 904 |  6 074 |
| Latvia | 96.66 |  28 255 |  29 232 |  4 719 |  4 885 |
| Liechtenstein | 96.03 |  339 |  353 |  339 |  353 |
| Lithuania | 93.76 |  47 189 |  50 329 |  4 744 |  5 061 |
| Macao-China | 97.57 |  6 261 |  6 417 |  4 760 |  4 882 |
| Montenegro | 93.23 |  6 821 |  7 317 |  4 367 |  4 681 |
| Qatar | 87.34 |  6 224 |  7 126 |  6 224 |  7 126 |
| Romania | 99.83 |  223 503 |  223 887 |  5 118 |  5 129 |
| Russian Federation | 96.02 | 1 738 842 | 1 810 856 |  5 799 |  6 036 |
| Serbia | 93.91 |  69 375 |  73 877 |  4 798 |  5 112 |
| Slovenia | 91.50 |  18 489 |  20 206 |  6 576 |  7 194 |
| Thailand | 98.74 |  636 028 |  644 125 |  6 192 |  6 266 |
| Tunisia | 94.53 |  130 922 |  138 491 |  4 640 |  4 905 |
| Uruguay | 88.24 |  30 693 |  34 784 |  4 779 |  5 380 |

Source: OECD (2007). *PISA 2006 Science Competencies for Tomorrow's World, Volume I.* Paris: Author.

1. In PISA 2006, the original school response rate in the United States was 69 percent – the lowest original school response rate of all the OECD countries, followed by the Czech Republic at 73 percent, the Netherlands at 75 percent, and the United Kingdom at 76 percent. Of the remaining OECD countries, 14 had an original school response rate of between 80 and 95 percent, 9 of above 95 percent but below 100 percent, and 3 of a 100 percent. Including replacement schools, the final school response rate for the United States in PISA 2006 was 79 percent - again the lowest among the OECD countries, which all achieved a final school response rate of above 86 percent (including the United Kingdom at 88 percent). Among the OECD countries, 7 achieved a final school response rate of between 86 and 95 percent, 16 of above 95 percent but below 100 percent, and 6 of 100 percent. See the attached table from the OECD’s PISA 2006 report for all response rates. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. As of July 14, 2009, the United States has obligated $7.3 million and spent $5 million. By the end of the data collection effort, at least $8.1 million of the $10 million will be spent. By the end of the project in 2011, all $10 million will be spent regardless of the final school response rate. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)