

Program for International Student Assessment

PISA 2009

Summary of Activities for Schools

When will data collection take place?

The assessment will take place during the fall of 2009. 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 assessment?

PISA staff will work with your school to select a random sample of up to 42 15-year-old students. 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 administering the assessment.

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

Yes. For your participation in PISA 2009, your school will receive \$200. Also, school principals will be asked to designate a School Coordinator (such as a school counselor or teacher) to work with PISA staff on within-school arrangements. The School Coordinator will receive \$100. Each student who participates in the assessment will receive \$20, if such payments are approved by the school principal.

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 divided into two parts. The first part is a reading, mathematics, and science 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?

Before the assessment, the School Coordinator will be asked to:

- Provide a list of all 15-year-old students in the school;
- Review parent notification requirements;
- Work with PISA staff to schedule the assessment and secure a large, quiet space for testing (space for up to 42 students);
- 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 and urge them to attend.

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 selected students attend the assessment session.

PISA requires very high student participation rates, and data from individual schools will not be counted unless most of the selected students attend the assessment. Thus **it is extremely important that attendance rates are 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 schools 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.

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.

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. Each school and student represents many others. Thus, the validity of results depends upon a high participation rate.



What confidentiality protections are included in the assessment?

The list of schools and students included in PISA 2009 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 2009, please feel free to contact the PISA staff at PISA2009@westat.com or on the toll-free number at 1-888-270-6227.

