

# Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS) 2024

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Information for Schools

Public Schools

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### What is TALIS?

TALIS is an international survey of teaching and learning environments. It asks teachers and principals questions about their backgrounds, work environments, professional development, and beliefs and attitudes about teaching. TALIS is unique because it is the only comparative international education survey that collects data from nationally representative samples of teachers and their school principals.

TALIS' main objective is to provide accurate and relevant international indicators on teachers and teaching towards the goal of helping countries review current conditions and develop informed education policy. TALIS offers an opportunity for teachers and school principals to provide their perspectives on the state of education in their own countries, allowing for a global view of teachers and the education systems in which they work. TALIS is being conducted in grades 7, 8, and 9 in the United States.

### What is TKS?

The Teacher Knowledge Survey (TKS) is a new survey included in TALIS 2024 that investigates the different pedagogical decisions teachers make in the classroom. The main objective of TKS is to gather information to improve the quality of teaching for better student learning by focusing on the following questions:

- How can we improve teacher learning for more effective teaching?
- How can we improve pedagogy for more effective learning?

### What will schools and teachers be asked to do?

TALIS does not have to be completed during the school day or during instructional hours. Teachers and principals can complete the survey during a time that is best for their schedule.

TALIS 2024 includes the core TALIS Teacher and Principal Questionnaires that are similar to those used in prior rounds of TALIS, plus a new Teacher Knowledge Survey (TKS). Teachers will complete either the core TALIS or the TKS instrument. Questionnaires cover the following topics:

- Teacher and principal background and characteristics;
- School leadership and climate, including support for diversity;
- Teachers' instructional approaches and pedagogical practices;
- Teacher and principal professional development; and
- Teacher appraisal and feedback.

### Why was my school selected for participation?

Schools with varying demographics and in different locales were randomly selected so that the U.S. sample is representative of the overall U.S. school population, both public and private. The random selection process is important for ensuring that a country's sample accurately reflects its schools and therefore can be compared fairly with samples of schools from other countries.

## How long do the questionnaires take to complete?

The Principal and Teacher Questionnaires are designed to be completed within 45 minutes and 60 minutes, respectively, including the time it may take to read instructions and gather the needed information.

## Will all teachers in the school be asked to participate?

It depends on the number of teachers in the school. The survey requires a random sample of up to 35 teachers who teach at least one class/course to 7th, 8th, or 9th graders in each school, regardless of subject matter. In schools with 35 or fewer eligible teachers, all teachers who teach at target grades will be asked to participate.

Teachers will receive \$25 for completing the Teacher Questionnaire. Schools will receive \$200 for participating.

## Who conducts the survey?

The survey will be undertaken by trained staff from Westat under contract to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the U.S. Department of Education. NCES is authorized to conduct this survey by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543). The U.S. Office of Management and Budget has approved this data collection under OMB# 1850-0888.

## When will the survey be conducted?

The survey will be conducted in March and April of 2024. Both the principal and selected teachers will receive instructions on how to complete the questionnaires. To make responding easier, the questionnaires will be available online, although a paper-based version will also be available.

## What will happen with the collected data?

The data from the questionnaires will be used to document the conditions of teaching and schooling that may be related to student learning and to develop comparative education indicators geared toward informing policy discussions about teachers and teaching. The data provided by schools and staff may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law (20 U.S.C. §9573 and 6 U.S.C. §151). Reports of the findings from TALIS will not identify participating districts, schools, or individual staff. Individual responses will be combined with those from other participants to produce summary statistics and reports.

## Is participation required by federal law?

No. School and teacher participation is voluntary. However, we hope you will participate in this survey so that the principal and teachers like those in your school are accurately and fairly represented.

## How will the survey be coordinated in my school?

Schools are asked to designate a School Coordinator to distribute materials and gather information. The School Coordinator will be the main contact at the school through whom Westat will communicate. There is no need for contractor staff to visit the school. The School Coordinator is asked to complete a sampling form listing eligible teachers of 7th, 8th, or 9th graders, distribute information materials to the selected teachers, provide the principal and teachers with the questionnaires or login/password information for the online surveys, and to encourage the completion of the surveys by the agreed upon deadline. School Coordinators will likely spend an average of 4 hours on the liaison tasks. The School Coordinator can be a teacher or any school staff member (e.g., office administrator).

School Coordinators will receive \$200 for their time and effort in coordinating the survey.

# Thank you for participating in TALIS!

---

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is authorized to conduct the Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS) by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543). The data are being collected for NCES by Westat, a U.S.-based research organization. All of the information you provide may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law (20 U.S.C. §9573 and 6 U.S.C. §151). The U.S. Office of Management and Budget has approved this data collection under OMB #1850-0888. Approval Expires 08/31/2025.