

International Computer and Information Literacy Study (ICILS) 2023



Frequently Asked Questions

ICILS 2023 Main Study will occur in the spring of 2023.

What is ICILS?

The International Computer and Information Literacy Study (ICILS) is an international assessment and research project designed to measure computer and information literacy achievement at the eighth grade, as well as school and teacher practices related to instruction. ICILS provides a unique opportunity to compare U.S. eighth-grade students' computer and information literacy skills and access to and use of technology with that of their peers in countries around the world. ICILS is developed internationally as a response to the increasing use of information and communication technology (ICT) in modern society and the need for citizens to develop relevant skills to participate effectively in the digital age. The United States participated in ICILS in 2018 along with 13 other education systems and will participate again in 2023. ICILS 2023 will include students from approximately 30 education systems.

What is the Main Study for?

ICILS 2023 plans to continue collecting and analyzing data to provide a better understanding of the modern, pervasive digital context, as well as of students' skills in information management, communication, and computational thinking. ICILS 2023 will include more aspects related to digital citizenship, reflecting young people's increasing opportunities for online citizenship participation and helping measure progress toward UNESCO's Sustainable Development Goal 4.4 (increasing the number of young people who have relevant skills for employment).

Why was my school selected for participation?

Your school was randomly selected to participate and represent our country in the study. The U.S. sample includes both public and private school representative of the nation at grade 8. Two classrooms per school will be selected where feasible. In schools containing only one class, this class will be selected.

Why should my school and students participate?

ICILS assesses computer information literacy and computational thinking skills at grade 8 and is designed to address challenges associated with young people's development of essential 21st century digital skills. The results will help us understand the use of digital technologies in schools and how they are used to develop students' digital competencies. ICILS informs national discussions about education policy as well as international competitiveness. Students' efforts in the Main Study help ensure that the achievement of our nation's grade 8 students can be accurately and fairly reported.

Will all our eighth-grade students be asked to participate?

It depends on the number of eighth-grade classrooms in the school. In schools with only one or two such classrooms, all students will be asked to participate. In schools with more than two such classrooms, only students in two randomly selected classrooms will be asked to participate. In addition, some students with special needs or limited English proficiency may be excused from the assessment.

How many school staff will be asked to participate?

In addition to collecting information from students, ICILS will collect questionnaire data from one school administrator and one ICT coordinator from each participating school. In addition, to understand how teachers access and use technology in the classroom, about 15 teachers from each school will be selected to form a nationally representative sample of grade 8 teachers.

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Who conducts the ICILS assessment?

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education, is authorized to conduct this study under the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543), and approval of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget under OMB# 1850-0929. The data collection at your school will be carried out on behalf of NCES by trained staff from RTI International, a research organization under contract with NCES.

How are the teacher, ICT coordinator, and principal questionnaires administered?

The teacher, ICT coordinator, and principal questionnaires are administered online from a secure website. Teacher questionnaires take about 30 minutes to complete, and ask teachers questions about their experience, available resources, and instructional practices. The ICT coordinator and principal questionnaires each take about 15 minutes to complete and ask about school practices, resources and support related to information and communication technology (ICT).

Do teachers need to help administer the assessment?

No, RTI International field staff will visit the school on the day of the assessment, bringing with them all the materials required. These field staff will administer the assessments to students.

Do schools need to provide computer equipment for the Main Study?

No, RTI International field staff will bring all the equipment needed for the Main Study, including tablets and keyboards.

When will the Main Study be conducted?

The Main Study will be conducted in March through May 2023. RTI International will work with schools to identify an assessment date convenient for the school in that time period.

Where will the Main Study be conducted?

The assessment will be conducted in a classroom or area designated by the schools that participate in the test.

How long does the Main Study take for students?

The Main Study will take approximately 3.5 hours to complete. This includes time for directions, the assessment, and a questionnaire that students complete about themselves and their experiences with technology.

What will happen with the collected data?

All of the information provided by school staff and students 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 the study will not identify participating districts, schools, students, or individual staff. Individual responses will be combined with those of other participants to produce summary statistics and reports.

Where can I find more information about ICILS?

Visit the ICILS website at <http://nces.ed.gov/icils>.

For additional information about ICILS 2023, contact the ICILS U.S. home office at 1-800-611-0338 or email ICILS@RTI.org.