

# Program for International Student Assessment Frequently Asked Questions

## PISA 2022 Information for Schools

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*A Publication of the National Center for Education Statistics at IES*

PISA is an international assessment of students nearing the end of compulsory education that measures how well students apply their knowledge and skills to solve problems related to mathematics, reading, and science, as well as financial literacy in real-life contexts. In PISA 2022, students will be assessed in mathematics, reading, science, financial literacy, or some combination of these subjects. PISA 2022 will be administered in the fall of 2022.

### **What does participating in PISA entail?**

Each school is asked to designate a school coordinator to work with Westat and to submit a list of all students born on or between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007. Up to 52 students in each school will be sampled to participate in the PISA assessment, which takes about 4 hours of total time, including instructions, breaks, and a questionnaire. The principal of each school will also be asked to complete an online questionnaire about school and student body characteristics and policies.

### **Why should my school and students participate?**

The participation of selected schools in the United States is vital to ensuring an accurate representation of the overall population of students nearing the end of compulsory education across the country—including U.S. public and private schools. Although the assessment is voluntary, we rely on school and student participation to ensure the results are complete and accurate. We cannot do that without the support of schools like yours.

PISA is administered worldwide in order to help participating school systems and countries understand their strengths and areas for improvement, with the ultimate goal of increasing both the quality and equity of education worldwide. As such, PISA fosters engagement among international education systems, allowing teachers, education professionals, and policy experts to compare shared experiences in the global learning community. By taking part in PISA, your school will have the unique opportunity to impact the bigger picture of education in the United States and across the world.

As a token of appreciation for participating, schools will receive \$250, the school coordinator will receive \$200, and students who participate will each receive \$25 and 4 hours of volunteer service time.

### **What are the benefits to participating?**

Schools participating in PISA may also receive a school-level report (pending sample size and response rate requirements). The school report presents comparisons of your school's average scores with the average scores of participating education systems including the United States. The report also provides comparisons of your school with other similar U.S. schools based on specific school-level characteristics. The school report is provided only to your school and any published reports from PISA 2022 will not identify participating schools.

### **Will all of our students be asked to participate?**

Probably not. In each school, all students born between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007 and enrolled in grade 7 or higher will have an equal chance of selection. Up to 52 students in each school will be selected to participate. Only in very small schools will the school sample likely include all eligible students. In addition, some students with disabilities or limited English proficiency may be offered a limited set of accommodations to enable their participation; otherwise, they may be excused from the assessment.

## Who conducts PISA?

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education, conducts this study as authorized by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543) and with the approval of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget under OMB# 1850-0755. The assessment process will be undertaken by trained staff from Westat, a research organization under contract to NCES. In compliance with standard protocols, Westat field staff undergoes FBI background checks.

## How is the school questionnaire administered?

The school questionnaire is administered online from a secure website. The school questionnaire, which looks at school characteristics such as enrollment and school practices, takes about 45 minutes to complete.

## Do teachers or other school staff need to help administer the assessment?

No. Westat field staff will visit the school on the day of the assessment, bringing with them all the materials required, and will handle the entire administration of the assessment. Field staff will also bring all of the necessary computer equipment. There is no requirement for school resources such as school computers or access to the Internet. All that is required is adequate space to set up the equipment and assess the students.

## When will PISA be conducted?

PISA will be conducted between October 3 and November 25, 2022. Westat will work with schools to identify an assessment date convenient for the school in that time period.

## How long does PISA take?

Students will take a computer-based assessment. This approximately 4-hour session includes time for instructions, the assessment, breaks, and a questionnaire that students complete about themselves. The assessment location will be used for about 6 hours total, including setup and breakdown by Westat staff. All assessment activities will take place in 1 day.

## What will happen with the collected data?

The data collected for PISA will be used to report on students' knowledge and skills as group descriptions at the national level. 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). The U.S. Office of Management and Budget has approved this data collection under OMB# 1850-0755. Reports of the findings from PISA will not identify participating districts, schools, students, or individual staff. Individual responses will be combined with those from other participants to produce summary statistics and reports.

### Where can I find more information?

Visit the PISA website at <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pisa/>.

For additional questions about PISA 2022, contact the PISA U.S. home office at 1-888-638-2597 or email [PISAHelp@westat.com](mailto:PISAHelp@westat.com).

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The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is authorized to conduct the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543), and to collect students' education records from educational agencies or institutions for the purpose of evaluating federally supported education programs under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA, 34 CFR §§ 99.31(a)(3)(iii) and 99.35). 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).