Mathematics
Student Background Questionnaire

2003
Grade 4
In this section, please tell us about yourself and your family. The section has 15 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet.

1. Are you Hispanic or Latino? Fill in one or more ovals.
   - ☐ No, I am not Hispanic or Latino.
   - ☐ Yes, I am Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano.
   - ☐ Yes, I am Puerto Rican or Puerto Rican American.
   - ☐ Yes, I am Cuban or Cuban American.
   - ☐ Yes, I am from some other Hispanic or Latino background.

2. Which of the following best describes you? Fill in one or more ovals.
   - ☐ White
   - ☐ Black or African American
   - ☐ Asian
   - ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
   - ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
Section 3

For the rest of the questions in this section, fill in only one oval for each question.

3. Does your family get a newspaper at least four times a week?
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No
   - [ ] I don’t know.

4. Does your family get any magazines regularly?
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No
   - [ ] I don’t know.

5. About how many books are there in your home?
   - [ ] Few (0-10)
   - [ ] Enough to fill one shelf (11-25)
   - [ ] Enough to fill one bookcase (26-100)
   - [ ] Enough to fill several bookcases (more than 100)

6. Is there a computer at home that you use?
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No

7. Is there an encyclopedia in your home? It could be a set of books, or it could be on the computer.
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No
   - [ ] I don’t know.

8. Is there a world atlas in your home? It could be a book of maps of the world, or it could be on the computer.
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No
   - [ ] I don’t know.

9. About how many pages a day do you have to read in school and for homework?
   - [ ] 5 or fewer
   - [ ] 6-10
   - [ ] 11-15
   - [ ] 16-20
   - [ ] More than 20
10. How often do you talk about things you have studied in school with someone in your family?
- Never or hardly ever
- Once every few weeks
- About once a week
- Two or three times a week
- Every day

11. On a school day, about how many hours do you usually watch TV or videotapes outside of school?
- None
- 1 hour or less
- 2 or 3 hours
- 4 or 5 hours
- 6 hours or more

12. How many days were you absent from school in the last month?
- None
- 1 or 2 days
- 3 or 4 days
- 5 to 10 days
- More than 10 days

13. How far in school did your mother go?
- She did not finish high school.
- She graduated from high school.
- She had some education after high school.
- She graduated from college.
- I don’t know.

14. How far in school did your father go?
- He did not finish high school.
- He graduated from high school.
- He had some education after high school.
- He graduated from college.
- I don’t know.

15. How often do people in your home talk to each other in a language other than English?
- Never
- Once in a while
- About half of the time
- All or most of the time
This Section has 6 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only one oval for each question.

1a. For this school year, how often do you do mathematics problems from textbooks?
- Never or hardly ever
- Once or twice a month
- Once or twice a week
- Almost every day

1b. For this school year, how often do you solve mathematics problems with a partner or in small groups?
- Never or hardly ever
- Once or twice a month
- Once or twice a week
- Almost every day

1c. For this school year, how often do you work with objects like rulers, counting blocks, or geometric shapes?
- Never or hardly ever
- Once or twice a month
- Once or twice a week
- Almost every day

1d. For this school year, how often do you write a few sentences about how you solved a mathematics problem?
- Never or hardly ever
- Once or twice a month
- Once or twice a week
- Almost every day

1e. For this school year, how often does your teacher have you talk with other students during class about how you solved mathematics problems?
- Never or hardly ever
- Once or twice a month
- Once or twice a week
- Almost every day

1f. For this school year, how often do you use a computer?
- Never or hardly ever
- Once or twice a month
- Once or twice a week
- Almost every day
2. Do you have a calculator that you can use to do mathematics schoolwork?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No

3a. For this school year, how often do you use a calculator for classwork?
   ☐ Never or hardly ever
   ☐ Once or twice a month
   ☐ Once or twice a week
   ☐ Almost every day

3b. For this school year, how often do you use a calculator for homework?
   ☐ Never or hardly ever
   ☐ Once or twice a month
   ☐ Once or twice a week
   ☐ Almost every day

3c. For this school year, how often does your teacher let you use a calculator for tests or quizzes?
   ☐ Never or hardly ever
   ☐ Sometimes
   ☐ Most of the time
   ☐ Always

4. About how much time do you usually spend each day on mathematics homework?
   ☐ None
   ☐ 15 minutes
   ☐ 30 minutes
   ☐ 45 minutes
   ☐ One hour
   ☐ More than one hour

5. Do you get extra help in mathematics from a special teacher, teacher aide, or tutor?
   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No
Questions 6a-6c. The following statements are about mathematics. For each statement, please mark the answer that best describes you.

6a. I like mathematics.
   - ☐ This is not like me.
   - ☐ This is a little like me.
   - ☐ This is a lot like me.

6b. I am good at mathematics.
   - ☐ This is not like me.
   - ☐ This is a little like me.
   - ☐ This is a lot like me.

6c. I understand most of what goes on in mathematics class.
   - ☐ This is not like me.
   - ☐ This is a little like me.
   - ☐ This is a lot like me.

Questions 6d-6g. These statements ask about mathematics. For each statement, please mark the answer that tells how much you agree with it.

6d. There is only one correct way to solve a mathematics problem.
   - ☐ I disagree.
   - ☐ I am not sure if I disagree or agree.
   - ☐ I agree.

6e. Learning mathematics is mostly memorizing facts.
   - ☐ I disagree.
   - ☐ I am not sure if I disagree or agree.
   - ☐ I agree.

6f. Mathematics is useful for solving everyday problems.
   - ☐ I disagree.
   - ☐ I am not sure if I disagree or agree.
   - ☐ I agree.

6g. All students can do well in mathematics if they try.
   - ☐ I disagree.
   - ☐ I am not sure if I disagree or agree.
   - ☐ I agree.