

The following briefly describes the PISA 2000 data sets and how to access the data using SAS. It is highly recommended that the user refer first to the *PISA 2000 Data Analysis Manual* for detailed information on these analysis issues. That report is available for downloading at (<http://www.oecd.org/pisa/pisaproducts/pisa2000/>). The international data may be downloaded from this same site.

PISA 2000 Data Sets

The PISA database contains five data sets: the school questionnaire file (usa_school.dat), three student questionnaire files (usa_math2.dat, usa_read2.dat, and usa_scie2.dat) and the assessment items file (usa_assesm.dat). The data are in ASCII format. Associated control programs are included on this website to assist the user in reading the data to produce SAS data sets system files. Since the data are hierarchical (students are clustered within schools) each student record contains identification variables that enable the user to merge the school data with the student data. The school data may be merged to the student data using the variable SCHOOLID.

Accessing the U.S. Data through the SAS Control Files

SAS control files are available on this site. These files contain code to create SAS datasets ready for analysis. Users will need to make some minor edits to the code prior to running it. The most basic edits required are changes to the paths pointing the raw data files and the path where the output dataset will be saved. The naming convention for the programs is to take the root name of the dataset and replace the "dat" with "sas" or "sps" respectively. For example, in order to create a SAS dataset from the PISA 2000 school background file, usa_school.dat, the user must modify and run the program PISA2000 school.sas.