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TIMSS & PIRLS 2011

School Questionnaire

Grade 4

National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K St., NW
Washington, DC 20006

TIMSS & PIRLS
International Study Center
Lynch School of Education, Boston College

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TIMSS

School *Questionnaire*

Your school has agreed to participate in TIMSS 2011 (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study) and PIRLS 2011 (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study), which are educational research projects sponsored by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). TIMSS and PIRLS are measuring trends in student achievement in mathematics, science, and reading, and studying differences in national education systems in more than 60 countries in order to help improve teaching and learning worldwide.

This questionnaire is addressed to school principals and department heads who are asked to supply information about their schools. Since your school has been selected as part of a nationwide sample, your responses are very important in helping to describe fourth-grade education in the United States.

It is important that you answer each question carefully so that the information provided reflects the situation in your school as accurately as possible. Some of the questions will require that you look up school records, so you may wish to arrange for the assistance of another staff member to help provide this information.

Since TIMSS and PIRLS are international studies and all countries are using the same questionnaire, you may find that some of the questions seem unusual or are not entirely relevant to you or schools in the United States. Nevertheless, it is important that you do your best to answer all of the questions so comparisons can be made across countries in the study.

It is estimated that you will need approximately 30 minutes to complete this questionnaire. We appreciate the time and effort that this takes and thank you for your cooperation and contribution.

When you have completed the questionnaire, please return it to the TIMSS & PIRLS school coordinator.

NCES is authorized to collect information from the questionnaire under the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-279, Section 153). You do not have to provide the information requested. However, the information you provide will help the U.S. Department of Education's ongoing efforts to understand better how the educational system in the United States compares to that in other countries. There are no penalties should you choose not to participate in this study. Your answers may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose (Public Law 107-279, Section 183 and Title V, subtitle A of the E-Government Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-347)). Your response will be combined with those from other participants to produce summary statistics and reports.

This survey is estimated to take an average of 30 minutes, including time for reviewing instructions, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: Stephen Provasnik, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street NW, Room 9034, Washington, DC 20006-5650. Do not return the completed form to this address.

Thank you.

1

What is the total enrollment of students in your school as of April 1, 2011?

_____ students
Write in a number.

2

What is the total enrollment of <u>fourth-grade</u> students in your school as of April 1, 2011?

_____ students
Write in a number.

3

Approximately what percentage of students in your school have the following backgrounds?

*Fill in **one** circle for each line.*

	0 to 10%	11 to 25%	26 to 50%	More than 50%
a) Come from economically disadvantaged homes	①	②	③	④
b) Come from economically affluent homes	①	②	③	④

4

Around the first of October 2010, what percentage of students at this school were eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches through the National School Lunch Program?

_____ percentage of students
Write in a number.

5

A. How many people live in the city, town, or area where your school is located?

*Fill in **one** circle only.*

- More than 500,000 people -- ①
- 100,001 to 500,000 people -- ②
- 50,001 to 100,000 people -- ③
- 15,001 to 50,000 people -- ④
- 3,001 to 15,000 people -- ⑤
- 3,000 people or fewer -- ⑥

B. Which best describes the immediate area in which your school is located?

*Fill in **one** circle only.*

- Urban–Densely populated --- ①
- Suburban–On fringe or outskirts of urban area --- ②
- Medium size city or large town --- ③
- Small town or village --- ④
- Remote rural --- ⑤

C. Which best characterizes the average income level of the school's immediate area?

*Fill in **one** circle only.*

- High --- ①
- Medium --- ②
- Low --- ③

6

What type of school is this?

*Fill in **one** circle only.*

- Regular public school -- ①
- A regular public school with a magnet program -- ②
- A magnet school or school with a special program emphasis (e.g ., Montessori, science/math school, performing arts school, talented/gifted school, foreign language immersion school, etc.) - ③
- Special education: a school that primarily serves students with disabilities -- ④
- Alternative: a school designed to address the needs of students, typically at risk of educational failure, which cannot be met in regular schools -- ⑤
- Vocational -- ⑥
- Charter School -- ⑦
- Private (independent) -- ⑧
- Private (religiously affiliated) -- ⑨
- Other -- ⓪

7

A. Approximately what percentage of students in your school have English as their native language?

*Fill in **one** circle only.*

- More than 90% --- ①
- 76 to 90% --- ②
- 51 to 75% --- ③
- 26 to 50% --- ④
- 25% or less --- ⑤

B. Of the students currently enrolled in your school, what percentage has been identified as limited-English proficient (LEP)/English language learners (ELL)?

*Fill in **one** circle only.*

- 0% --- ①
- 1 to 5% --- ②
- 6 to 10% --- ③
- 11 to 25% --- ④
- 26 to 50% --- ⑤
- 51 to 75% --- ⑥
- 76 to 90% --- ⑦
- Over 90% --- ⑧

Instructional Time

8

For the fourth-grade students in your school:

A. How many <u>days per year</u> is your school open for instruction?

_____days
Write in the number.

B. What is the <u>total instructional time</u>, excluding breaks, in a <u>typical day</u>?

_____hours and _____minutes
Write in the number of hours and minutes.

C. In one <u>calendar week</u>, how many days is the school open for instruction?

*Fill in **one** circle only.*

- 6 days --- ①
- 5 1/2 days --- ②
- 5 days --- ③
- 4 1/2 days --- ④
- 4 days --- ⑤
- Other --- ⑥

Resources and Technology

9

What is the total number of computers that can be used for instructional purposes by fourth-grade students?

_____computers
Write in the number.

10

Does your school have a science laboratory that can be used by fourth-grade students?

*Fill in **one** circle only.*

- Yes --- ①
- No --- ②

11

Does your school have a school library?

*Fill in **one** circle only.*

- Yes --- ①
- No --- ② → **(If No, go to #12)**

If Yes,

A. <u>Approximately</u> how many books with different titles does your school library have (exclude magazines and periodicals)?

*Fill in **one** circle only.*

- 250 or fewer --- ①
- 251–500 --- ②
- 501–2,000 --- ③
- 2,001–5,000 --- ④
- 5,001–10,000 --- ⑤
- More than 10,000 --- ⑥

B. <u>Approximately</u> how many titles of magazines and other periodicals does your school library have?

*Fill in **one** circle only.*

- 0 --- ①
- 1–5 --- ②
- 6–10 --- ③
- 11–30 --- ④
- 31 or more --- ⑤

12

How much is your school's capacity to provide instruction affected by a shortage or inadequacy of the following?

*Fill in **one** circle for each line.*

	Not at all	A little	Some	A lot
A. General School Resources				
a) Instructional materials (e.g., textbooks)	1	2	3	4
b) Supplies (e.g., papers, pencils)	1	2	3	4
c) School buildings and grounds	1	2	3	4
d) Heating/cooling and lighting systems	1	2	3	4
e) Instructional space (e.g., classrooms)	1	2	3	4
f) Technologically competent staff	1	2	3	4
g) Computers for instruction	1	2	3	4
B. Resources for Reading Instruction				
a) Teachers with a specialization in reading	1	2	3	4
b) Computer software for reading instruction	1	2	3	4
c) Library books	1	2	3	4
d) Audio-visual resources for reading instruction	1	2	3	4

*Fill in **one** circle for each line.*

	Not at all	A little	Some	A lot
C. Resources for Mathematics Instruction				
a) Teachers with a specialization in mathematics	1	2	3	4
b) Computer software for mathematics instruction	1	2	3	4
c) Library materials relevant to mathematics instruction	1	2	3	4
d) Audio-visual resources for mathematics instruction	1	2	3	4
e) Calculators for mathematics instruction	1	2	3	4
D. Resources for Science Instruction				
a) Teachers with a specialization in science	1	2	3	4
b) Computer software for science instruction	1	2	3	4
c) Library materials relevant to science instruction	1	2	3	4
d) Audio-visual resources for science instruction	1	2	3	4
e) Science equipment and materials	1	2	3	4

13

A. How often does your school do the following for parents concerning individual students?

*Fill in **one** circle for each line.*

	Never	Once a year	2–3 times a year	More than 3 times a year
a) Inform parents about their child's learning progress	1	2	3	4
b) Inform parents about the behavior and well-being of their child at school	1	2	3	4
c) Discuss parents' concerns or wishes about their child's learning	1	2	3	4
d) Support individual parents in helping their child with schoolwork	1	2	3	4

B. How often does your school ask parents to do the following?

*Fill in **one** circle for each line.*

	Never	Once a year	2–3 times a year	More than 3 times a year
a) Volunteer for school projects, programs, and trips	1	2	3	4
b) Serve on school committees	1	2	3	4

C. How often does your school do the following for parents in general?

*Fill in **one** circle for each line.*

	Never	Once a year	2–3 times a year	More than 3 times a year
a) Inform parents about the overall academic achievement of the school (e.g., results of state and/or district tests, results of inspections of learning)	1	2	3	4
b) Inform parents about school accomplishments (e.g., tournament results, facility improvements)	1	2	3	4
c) Inform parents about the educational goals and pedagogic principles of the school	1	2	3	4
d) Inform parents about the rules of the school	1	2	3	4
e) Discuss parents' concerns or wishes about the school's organization (e.g., rules and regulations, time tables, safety measures)	1	2	3	4
f) Provide parents with additional learning materials (e.g., books, computer software) for their child to use at home	1	2	3	4
g) Organize workshops or seminars for parents on learning or pedagogical issues	1	2	3	4

14

How would you characterize each of the following within your school?

*Fill in **one** circle for each line.*

	Very high	High	Medium	Low	Very low
a) Teachers' job satisfaction	①	②	③	④	⑤
b) Teachers' understanding of the school's curricular goals	①	②	③	④	⑤
c) Teachers' degree of success in implementing the school's curriculum	①	②	③	④	⑤
d) Teachers' expectations for student achievement	①	②	③	④	⑤
e) Parental support for student achievement	①	②	③	④	⑤
f) Parental involvement in school activities	①	②	③	④	⑤
g) Students' regard for school property	①	②	③	④	⑤
h) Students' desire to do well in school	①	②	③	④	⑤

15

A. To what degree is each of the following a problem among fourth-grade students in your school?

*Fill in **one** circle for each line.*

	Not a problem	Minor problem	Moderate problem	Serious problem
a) Arriving late at school	①	②	③	④
b) Absenteeism (i.e., unjustified absences)	①	②	③	④
c) Classroom disturbance	①	②	③	④
d) Cheating	①	②	③	④
e) Profanity	①	②	③	④
f) Vandalism	①	②	③	④
g) Theft	①	②	③	④
h) Intimidation or verbal abuse among students (including texting, emailing, etc.)	①	②	③	④
i) Physical fights among students	①	②	③	④
j) Intimidation or verbal abuse of teachers or staff (including texting, emailing, etc.)	①	②	③	④

B. To what degree is each of the following a problem among teachers in your school?

*Fill in **one** circle for each line.*

	Not a problem	Minor problem	Moderate problem	Serious problem
a) Arriving late or leaving early	①	②	③	④
b) Absenteeism	①	②	③	④

Teachers in Your School

16

In your school, are any of the following used to evaluate the practice of fourth-grade teachers?

*Fill in **one** circle for each line.*

	Yes	No
a) Observations by the principal or senior staff	①	②
b) Observations by inspectors or other persons external to the school	①	②
c) Student achievement	①	②
d) Teacher peer review	①	②

Leadership Activities

17

During the past year, approximately how much time have you spent on the following school leadership activities in your role as a school principal?

*Fill in **one** circle for each line.*

	No time	Some time	A lot of time
a) Promoting the school's educational vision or goals	①	②	③
b) Developing the school's curricular and educational goals	①	②	③
c) Monitoring teachers' implementation of the school's educational goals in their teaching	①	②	③
d) Monitoring students' learning progress to ensure that the school's educational goals are reached	①	②	③
e) Keeping an orderly atmosphere in the school	①	②	③
f) Ensuring that there are clear rules for student behavior	①	②	③
g) Addressing disruptive student behavior	①	②	③
h) Creating a climate of trust among teachers	①	②	③
i) Initiating a discussion to help teachers who have problems in the classroom	①	②	③
j) Advising teachers who have questions or problems with their teaching	①	②	③
k) Visiting other schools or attending educational conferences for new ideas	①	②	③
l) Initiating educational projects or improvements	①	②	③
m) Participating in professional development activities specifically for school principals	①	②	③

School Readiness

18

About how many of the students in your school can do the following when they begin primary/ elementary school?

*Fill in **one** circle for each line.*

	Less than 25%	25–50%	51–75%	More than 75%
a) Recognize most of the letters of the alphabet	①	②	③	④
b) Read some words	①	②	③	④
c) Read sentences	①	②	③	④
d) Write letters of the alphabet	①	②	③	④
e) Write some words	①	②	③	④
f) Count up to 100 or higher	①	②	③	④
g) Recognize all 10 written numbers from 1–10	①	②	③	④
h) Write all 10 numbers from 1–10	①	②	③	④

Reading in Your School

19

At which grade do the following reading skills and strategies <u>first</u> receive a <u>major emphasis</u> in instruction in your school?

*Fill in **one** circle for each line.*

	First grade or earlier	Second grade	Third grade	Fourth grade	Not in these grades
a) Knowing letters of the alphabet	①	②	③	④	⑤
b) Knowing letter-sound relationships	①	②	③	④	⑤
c) Reading words	①	②	③	④	⑤
d) Reading isolated sentences	①	②	③	④	⑤
e) Reading connected text	①	②	③	④	⑤
f) Locating information within the text	①	②	③	④	⑤
g) Identifying the main idea of a text	①	②	③	④	⑤
h) Explaining or supporting understanding of a text	①	②	③	④	⑤
i) Comparing a text with personal experience	①	②	③	④	⑤
j) Comparing different texts	①	②	③	④	⑤
k) Making predictions about what will happen next in a text	①	②	③	④	⑤
l) Making generalizations and drawing inferences based on a text	①	②	③	④	⑤
m) Describing the style or structure of a text	①	②	③	④	⑤
n) Determining the author's perspective or intention	①	②	③	④	⑤

20

Compared with other areas of the curriculum (e.g., mathematics and science), how much emphasis does your school place on teaching the following language and literacy skills to students in grades 1 to 4?

*Fill **one** circle for each line.*

	More emphasis	Same emphasis	Less emphasis
a) Reading	①	②	③
b) Writing (not handwriting)	①	②	③
c) Speaking/listening (oral language)	①	②	③

21

For students in fourth-grade and below, does your school make provisions for reading instruction in mother tongue for students whose mother tongue is <u>not</u> English?

*Fill **one** circle only.*

Yes --- ①

No --- ②

Thank You

Thank you for the thought, time, and effort you have put into completing this questionnaire.

BOSTON
COLLEGE

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School Questionnaire

Grade 4

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