

Facts for Parents About ICILS



Between March and May of this year, your child's school will be one of about 300 nationwide taking part in the 2018 International Computer and Information Literacy Study (ICILS). The schools were selected randomly to represent the nation's schools with eighth-grade students. Within each school, eighth-grade students were selected randomly to represent the nation's eighth-graders, and your child was among those students selected to take part in ICILS.

What is ICILS?

The International Computer and Information Literacy Study (ICILS) is an international assessment that measures student computer and information literacy. 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 was developed internationally as a response to the increasing use of information and communication technology in modern society and the need for citizens to develop relevant skills in order to participate effectively in the digital age. ICILS was first administered internationally in 2013 in 21 education systems and will be administered again in 2018. Along with more than 15 other nations, the U.S. will take part in the 2018 ICILS cycle. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education conducts ICILS in the United States.

What is involved?

ICILS staff will visit the school and administer the study. The main assessment will take approximately 3 hours and include a questionnaire that asks students about themselves and their educational experiences.

What are the benefits?

The nation as a whole benefits from ICILS by having a greater understanding of how the computer and information literacy knowledge and skills of U.S. eighth-graders compare with eighth-graders from other countries. Schools that participate in ICILS will receive \$200, and each student who participates will receive a small gift.

Who administers ICILS?

The entire assessment is administered by trained staff from Westat, a research organization under contract to the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

All of the information collected is safeguarded, as required by law. NCES is authorized to conduct this study under the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543). Under that law, the data provided by schools, 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). Students and schools are never identified in any reports. All reported statistics refer to the United States as a whole.

Where can I find out more about ICILS?

More information about ICILS is available at the ICILS website at <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/icils>. If you wish to contact an ICILS staff member directly, please feel free to call the ICILS U.S. home office at 1-855-445-5604 or email us at icils@westat.com.

