

Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2023



Fact for Parents- Grade 8: About the TIMSS 2023 Field Test

Between March and April of this year, your child's school will be one of about 35 nationwide taking part in an 8th-grade field test to prepare for TIMSS 2023¹. Schools were selected randomly to represent the nation's schools and, within each school, 8th-grade student classrooms were selected randomly to represent the nation's 8th graders. Your child was among those students selected to take part in the TIMSS 2023 field test.

What is TIMSS?

TIMSS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study) is an international assessment that measures student learning in mathematics and science. Every four years since 1995, TIMSS documents worldwide trends in the knowledge of 8th graders. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education, conducts TIMSS in the United States. Along with more than 65 other nations, the U.S. will take part in the 2023 TIMSS cycle as we did in 1995, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2011, 2015, and 2019.

What is the purpose of the TIMSS 2023 Field Test?

The TIMSS 2023 Field Test is piloting 4th and 8th grade questions in electronic format in approximately 70 schools in the United States in preparation for the 2023 international study (35 schools that include 4th grade and 35 that include 8th grade). This field test will allow test developers to modify or delete questions that are not reliable or fair for students in the United States.

What is involved?

TIMSS staff will visit the school and administer the field test on tablet computers that they will bring to the school. The field test will take approximately 2½ hours. The assessment itself is 90 minutes with breaks between sections. Students will also be asked some questions about themselves and their educational experience. Participation in the study is voluntary.

What are the benefits?

The nation as a whole benefits from TIMSS by having a greater understanding of how the knowledge and skills of U.S. 8th graders compare with those of 8th graders from other countries. Our country benefits from the field test by ensuring that the questions used are fair and appropriate for U.S. students. Schools that participate in TIMSS will receive \$200, and each student who participates will receive a small gift that we believe they will like.

Who administers TIMSS?

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

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). 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). 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 TIMSS?

More information about TIMSS is available at the TIMSS website at <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/TIMSS> or <http://timss.bc.edu>. Or if you would like to contact a TIMSS staff member directly, please feel free to call the TIMSS hotline at 833-870-0485 or email us at TIMSS_survey@rti.org.

¹ Another 35 schools nationwide will take part in the TIMSS 2023 Field Test at the 4th grade level.