

Fact for Parents- Grade 8: About TIMSS 2023

Between March and May of this year, your child's school will be one of about 500 nationwide taking part in TIMSS 2023.¹ 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 TIMSS 2023.

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 involved?

TIMSS staff will visit the school and administer the assessment on tablet computers that they will bring to the school. It will take approximately 2 ½ 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 in other countries. 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 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.

¹ 250 schools will take part in the TIMSS 2023 at the 8th-grade level.