



Facts for Parents

TIMSS 2019 Main Study Grade 8



About TIMSS 2019

Between April and May of this year, your child's school will be one of about 325 nationwide taking part in an 8th-grade important international assessment: TIMSS 2019. Schools were selected randomly to represent the nation's schools and, within each school, 8th-grade students were selected randomly to represent the nation's 8th-graders. Your child was among those students selected to take part in the TIMSS assessment.

What is TIMSS?

TIMSS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study) is an international assessment that measures student learning in mathematics and science. Every 4 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 60 other nations, the U.S. will take part in the 2019 TIMSS cycle as we did in 1995, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2011, and 2015.

What is involved?

TIMSS staff will visit the school and administer the assessment on tablet computers that they will bring to the school. In a few classes nationwide, the assessment will be administered on paper. The session 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 experiences. 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. Schools that participate in TIMSS will receive \$200, and students who participate will receive a small gift that we believe they will like.

Who administers TIMSS?

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.

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 <http://nces.ed.gov/timss> or <http://timss.bc.edu>. If you would like to contact a TIMSS staff member directly, please feel free to call the TIMSS hotline at **855-445-5604** or email us at TIMSS@westat.com.