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TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE STUDY

# School Questionnaire

## Grade 8

National Center for Education Statistics  
U.S. Department of Education  
1990 K St. NW  
Washington, DC 20006-5650



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

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# School Questionnaire

Your school has agreed to participate in TIMSS 2015 (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study), an educational research project sponsored by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). TIMSS measures trends in student achievement in mathematics and science and studies differences in national education systems in almost 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 eighth-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 is an international study 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 place it in the accompanying envelope and return it to the TIMSS school coordinator.

NCES is authorized to collect information from the questionnaire under the Education Science Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002), 20 U.S. Code, § 9543. 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 except as required by law (20 U.S. Code, § 9573). 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 burden, to: Stephen Provasnik, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street NW, Room 8123, Washington, DC 20006-5650. Do not return the completed form to this address.

Thank you.

# TIMSS 2015

# School Enrollment and Characteristics

## 1

What is the total enrollment of students in your school as of March 1, 2015?

\_\_\_\_\_ students  
Write in the number.

## 2

What is the total enrollment of eighth-grade students in your school as of March 1, 2015?

\_\_\_\_\_ students  
Write in the number.

## 3

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

Fill in only **one** circle for each row.

	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 1st of October 2014, 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 the number.

## 5

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

## 6

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

**7**

**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) - 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 - ⑩

**8**

**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
- 30,001 to 50,000 people--- ④
- 15,001 to 30,000 people--- ⑤
- 3,001 to 15,000 people--- ⑥
- 3,000 people or fewer--- ⑦

**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

**9**

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

Fill in **one** circle only.

- High--- ①
- Medium--- ②
- Low--- ③

**10**

**Does your school provide free meals for students?**

Fill in only **one** circle for each row.

	Yes, for all students		
	Yes, for some students		No
	①	②	③
a) Breakfast-----	①	②	③
b) Lunch-----	①	②	③

## 11

For the eighth-grade students in your school:

A. How many days per year is your school open for instruction?

\_\_\_\_\_ days  
Write in the number.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ hours \_\_\_\_\_ minutes  
Write in the number of hours and minutes per day.

C. In one calendar week, 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)

## 12

A. Does your school provide a place where students can work on their schoolwork before or after school?

Fill in **one** circle only.

- Yes --- (1)
- No --- (2)

(If No, go to question 13)

**If Yes,**

B. Is someone available to assist them with their schoolwork?

Fill in **one** circle only.

- Yes --- (1)
- No --- (2)

## 13

As a general school policy, is student achievement used to assign eighth-grade students to classes (e.g., streaming, tracking, setting)?

Fill in only **one** circle for each row.

- |                                  |       |     |
|----------------------------------|-------|-----|
|                                  | Yes   | No  |
| a) For mathematics classes ----- | (1) — | (2) |
| b) For science classes -----     | (1) — | (2) |

**14** \_\_\_\_\_  
**How many computers (including tablets) does your school have for use by eighth-grade students?**

\_\_\_\_\_ computers  
 Write in the number.

**15** \_\_\_\_\_  
**A. Does your school have a science laboratory that can be used by eighth-grade students?**

Fill in **one** circle only.

- Yes--- (1)  
 No--- (2)

**B. Do teachers usually have assistance available when students are conducting science experiments?**

Fill in **one** circle only.

- Yes--- (1)  
 No--- (2)

**16** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Does your school have a school library?**

Fill in **one** circle only.

- Yes--- (1)  
 No--- (2) 

(If No, go to question 17)

**If Yes,**

**A. Approximately how many books (print and digital) with different titles does your school library have (exclude magazines and periodicals)?**

Fill in only **one** circle in each column.

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

**B. Approximately how many titles of magazines and other periodicals (print and digital) does your school library have?**

Fill in only **one** circle in each column.

	Print	Digital
0---	(1)	(1)
1–5---	(2)	(2)
6–10---	(3)	(3)
11–30---	(4)	(4)
31 or more---	(5)	(5)

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

Fill in only **one** circle for each row.

**A. General School Resources**

Not at all      A little      Some      A lot

a) Instructional materials (e.g., textbooks) ----- ① — ② — ③ — ④

b) Supplies (e.g., papers, pencils, materials) ----- 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) Audio-visual resources for delivery of instruction (e.g., interactive white boards, digital projectors) ----- ① — ② — ③ — ④

h) Computer technology for teaching and learning (e.g., computers or tablets for student use) ----- ① — ② — ③ — ④

i) Resources for students with disabilities ----- ① — ② — ③ — ④

Fill in only **one** circle for each row.

**B. Resources for Mathematics Instruction**

Not at all      A little      Some      A lot

a) Teachers with a specialization in mathematics ----- ① — ② — ③ — ④

b) Computer software/applications for mathematics instruction ----- ① — ② — ③ — ④

c) Library resources relevant to mathematics instruction --- ① — ② — ③ — ④

d) Calculators for mathematics instruction ----- ① — ② — ③ — ④

e) Concrete objects or materials to help students understand quantities or procedures ----- ① — ② — ③ — ④

**C. Resources for Science Instruction**

a) Teachers with a specialization in science ----- ① — ② — ③ — ④

b) Computer software/applications for science instruction ----- ① — ② — ③ — ④

c) Library resources relevant to science instruction ----- ① — ② — ③ — ④

d) Calculators for science instruction ----- ① — ② — ③ — ④

e) Science equipment and materials for experiments ----- ① — ② — ③ — ④

**18**

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

Fill in only **one** circle for each row.

	Very high									
		High								
			Medium							
				Low						
					Very low					
a) Teachers' understanding of the school's curricular goals	-----	①	-----	②	-----	③	-----	④	-----	⑤
b) Teachers' degree of success in implementing the school's curriculum	-----	①	-----	②	-----	③	-----	④	-----	⑤
c) Teachers' expectations for student achievement	-----	①	-----	②	-----	③	-----	④	-----	⑤
d) Teachers working together to improve student achievement	-----	①	-----	②	-----	③	-----	④	-----	⑤
e) Teachers' ability to inspire students	-----	①	-----	②	-----	③	-----	④	-----	⑤
f) Parental involvement in school activities	-----	①	-----	②	-----	③	-----	④	-----	⑤
g) Parental commitment to ensure that students are ready to learn	-----	①	-----	②	-----	③	-----	④	-----	⑤
h) Parental expectations for student achievement	-----	①	-----	②	-----	③	-----	④	-----	⑤
i) Parental support for student achievement	-----	①	-----	②	-----	③	-----	④	-----	⑤
j) Parental pressure for the school to maintain high academic standards	-----	①	-----	②	-----	③	-----	④	-----	⑤
k) Students' desire to do well in school	-----	①	-----	②	-----	③	-----	④	-----	⑤
l) Students' ability to reach school's academic goals	-----	①	-----	②	-----	③	-----	④	-----	⑤
m) Students' respect for classmates who excel in school	-----	①	-----	②	-----	③	-----	④	-----	⑤

**19**

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

Fill in only **one** circle for each row.

		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 injury to other students	-----	①	-----	②	-----	③	-----	④
j) Intimidation or verbal abuse of teachers or staff (including texting, emailing, etc.)	-----	①	-----	②	-----	③	-----	④
k) Physical injury to teachers or staff	-----	①	-----	②	-----	③	-----	④



**20**

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

Fill in only **one** circle for each row.

- |   |     |    |
|---|-----|----|
|   | 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  |

**21**

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

Fill in only **one** circle for each row.

- |   |     |    |
|---|-----|----|
|   | 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  |

**22**

How difficult was it to fill eighth-grade teaching vacancies for this school year for the following subjects?

Fill in only **one** circle for each row.

- |                      |                                   |                        |                    |                |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
|                      | Were no vacancies in this subject | Easy to fill vacancies | Somewhat difficult | Very difficult |
|                      |                                   |                        |                    |                |
| a) Mathematics ----- | ①                                 | ②                      | ③                  | ④              |
| b) Science -----     | ①                                 | ②                      | ③                  | ④              |
| c) Other -----       | ①                                 | ②                      | ③                  | ④              |

**23**

Does your school currently use any incentives (e.g., pay, housing, signing bonus, smaller classes) to recruit or retain eighth-grade teachers in the following fields?

Fill in only **one** circle for each row.

- |                      |     |    |
|----------------------|-----|----|
|                      | Yes | No |
|                      |     |    |
| a) Mathematics ----- | ①   | ②  |
| b) Science -----     | ①   | ②  |
| c) Other -----       | ①   | ②  |

**24**

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

Fill in only **one** circle for each row.

- |                                      |               |               |                  |                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
|                                      | 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               |

**25** \_\_\_\_\_

**By the end of this school year, how many years altogether will you have been a principal?**

\_\_\_\_\_ years  
Please **round** to the nearest whole number.

**26** \_\_\_\_\_

**By the end of this school year, how many years will you have been a principal at this school?**

\_\_\_\_\_ years  
Please **round** to the nearest whole number.

**27** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the highest level of formal education you have completed?**

Fill in **one** circle only.

Did not complete Bachelor's degree  
(4-year college program) --- ①

Bachelor's degree  
(4-year college program) --- ②

Master's degree or professional degree  
(MD, DDS, lawyer, minister) --- ③

Doctorate (Ph.D., or Ed.D.) --- ④

**28** \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you hold the following degrees in educational leadership?**

Fill in only **one** circle for each row.

	Yes	No
a) Master's degree or professional degree (MD, DDS, lawyer, minister) -----	①	②
b) Doctorate (Ph.D., or Ed.D.) -----	①	②

# Thank You

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

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BOSTON  
COLLEGE

# TIMSS 2015

TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE STUDY

# School Questionnaire

## Grade 8



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for the Evaluation of  
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