

Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS)

The entity that has organized the survey and is responsible for data collection – as well as key data on the entity's membership, governance arrangements, source of funding etc.

PIRLS is organized by the TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center, Lynch School of Education at Boston College and the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement.

A historical sketch of the initiation and origin of the survey

The first PIRLS was conducted in 2001. Ten years later it was expanded to include prePIRLS, a less difficult version of PIRLS.

Internet links to the website of the responsible organization

[The website of the Lynch School of Education](#)

[The website of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement](#)

[The website of the TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center](#)

The frequency or repetitions of the survey. Possible explanation of this.

PIRLS is conducted every fifth year.

[PIRLS I: 2001](#)

[PIRLS II: 2006](#)

[PIRLS III: 2011](#)

[PIRLS IV: 2016](#)

[prePIRLS I: 2011](#)

[prePIRLS II: 2016](#)

A description of the survey's content, i.e. both focused rotational and / or core modules of the survey

PIRLS is measuring trends in reading comprehension at the fourth grade (usually 9-10 years of age).

An outline of the type of sample and the main data collection methods used

[According to the National Center for Education Statistics](#) each participating country agrees to select a sample which is representative of the target population. Schools are randomly selected first, and then one or two classrooms are randomly selected within each school.

The data is collected through an assessment of the students.

An account of the availability of the data to researchers, restrictions on access, etc.

The data from PIRLS 2001-2011 are available in the International Database on the website of the TIMSS and PIRLS International Study Center.

Questionnaires, English version

The National Center for Education Statistics has an [overview of the PIRLS questionnaires](#) and some [sample assessment questions](#).

The countries included in the different rounds

PIRLS 2001: 36 education systems (including non-countries like Canadian provinces or Hong Kong)

PIRLS 2006: 45 education systems

PIRLS 2011: 53 education systems

For details on which education systems participated, please refer to the round-specific information (see the links above).

Cumulative file of the various rounds

There is no cumulative file.

Publications based on the data

[Publications based on PIRLS](#)

Analytical summary...

Sources

Unless otherwise noted, all information is extracted from the website of the PIRLS.