

Identification Label

School ID:

School Name:

Progress in International Reading Literacy Study

PIRLS 2006

SCHOOL QUESTIONNAIRE



International Association for the Evaluation of
Educational Achievement

<PIRLS National Research Center Name>
<Address>

School *Questionnaire*

Your school has been selected to participate in the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), an educational research project sponsored by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). PIRLS is investigating student achievement in reading literacy in about 40 countries around the world. It is designed to measure and interpret differences in national education systems in order to help improve the teaching and learning of reading worldwide.

This questionnaire is addressed to school principals 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 the education in <country>.

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. It is estimated that it will require approximately 30 minutes to complete this questionnaire.

Since PIRLS 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 <country>. 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.

When you have completed the questionnaire, please place it in the accompanying envelope and return it to:

<Insert country-specific information here>.

Thank You.

PIRLS 2006

1

What is the total enrollment of students in your school as of <first day of month PIRLS testing begins, 2005/2006>?

_____ students
Write in a number.

2

What is the total enrollment of <fourth-grade> students in your school as of <first day of month PIRLS testing begins, 2005/2006>?

_____ students
Write in a number.

3

How many people live in the city, town, or area in which your school is located?

Check **one** circle only.

- Fewer than 3,000 people ---
- 3,001 to 15,000 people ---
- 15,001 to 50,000 people ---
- 50,001 to 100,000 people ---
- 100,001 to 500,000 people ---
- More than 500,000 people ---

4

How would you characterize the area in which your school is located?

Check **one** circle only.

- Urban ----
- Suburban ----
- Rural ----

5

For the <fourth-grade> students in your school, about how many students receive free or reduced-price lunch?

Check **one** circle only.

- All ----
- Some ----
- None ----

6

Approximately what percentage of students in your school...

Check **one** circle for each line.

-
- a) come from economically disadvantaged homes? -----
 - b) come from economically affluent homes? -----
 - c) do not speak <language of test> as their first language? -----
 - d) receive some instruction at school in their home language (other than <language of test>) -----

7

For the <fourth-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 and _____ minutes
Write in the number of hours and minutes.

c. In one calendar week, how many days is the school open for instruction?

Check **one** circle only.

- 6 days ----
- 5 1/2 days ----
- 5 days ----
- 4 1/2 days ----
- 4 days ----
- Other ----

Please specify _____

8

Does your school offer the following for the <fourth-grade> students in your school?

Check **one** circle only.

- a) Extended instructional time (beyond the prescribed minimum) ----- Yes No

If Yes,

How many students participate?

Check **one** circle only.

- 0-25% ----
- 26-50% ----
- 51-75% ----
- 76-100% ----

Check **one** circle only.

- b) Before or after-school child care ----- Yes No

If Yes,

How many students participate?

Check **one** circle only.

- 0-25% ----
- 26-50% ----
- 51-75% ----
- 76-100% ----

9

About how many of the students in your school can do the following when they begin <ISCED Level 1>?

Check **one** circle for each line.

Less than 25% 25-50% 51-75% More than 75%

a) Recognize most of the letters of the alphabet -----

b) Read some words -----

c) Read sentences -----

d) Write letters of the alphabet -----

e) Write some words -----

10

Compared with other areas of the curriculum (e.g., mathematics and science), how much emphasis does your school place on teaching the following language and literacy skills to students in <grades 1 to 4>?

Check **one** circle for each line.

More emphasis Same emphasis Less emphasis

a) Reading -----

b) Writing (not handwriting) -----

c) Speaking/listening (oral language) -----

11

Does your school have the following?

Check **one** circle for each line.

Yes No

a) Its own written statement of the reading curriculum to be taught in the school (in addition to the national or regional curriculum guides) -----

b) Informal initiatives to encourage students to read (for example, book clubs, independent reading contests, school-wide recreational reading periods) -----

c) School-based programs for teachers geared towards the improvement of reading instruction -----

d) Its own guidelines on how to coordinate reading instruction across teachers -----

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How does your school use the following materials in your reading instructional program for students in <fourth grade and below>?

Check **one** circle for each line.

	Basis for instruction	Supplement	Not used	Varies by teacher/grade
a) Reading series (basal readers, graded readers) -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) Textbooks -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) A variety of children's books -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) Materials from different curricular areas -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e) Children's newspapers and/or magazines -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f) Computer programs that teach students to read -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13

At which grade do the following reading skills and strategies **first** receive a major emphasis in instruction in your school?

Check **one** circle for each line.

	<3_grds_blw+earlier>	<2_grds_blw>	<1_grd_blw>	<fourth grade>	Not in these grades
a) Knowing letters of the alphabet -----	<input type="radio"/>				
b) Knowing letter-sound relationships -----	<input type="radio"/>				
c) Reading words -----	<input type="radio"/>				
d) Reading isolated sentences -----	<input type="radio"/>				
e) Reading connected text -----	<input type="radio"/>				
f) Identifying the main idea of text -----	<input type="radio"/>				
g) Explaining or supporting understanding of text -----	<input type="radio"/>				
h) Comparing text with personal experience -----	<input type="radio"/>				
i) Comparing different texts -----	<input type="radio"/>				
j) Making predictions about what will happen next in text -----	<input type="radio"/>				
k) Making generalizations and inferences based on text -----	<input type="radio"/>				
l) Describing style and structure of text -----	<input type="radio"/>				

14

For students in <fourth-grade and below>, does your school make provisions for reading instruction in mother tongue for students whose mother tongue is not <language of test>?

Check **one** circle only.

Yes ----

No ----

15

Does your school have a school library?

Check **one** circle only.

Yes ----

No ----

(If No, go to #16)

If Yes,

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

Check **one** circle only.

250 or fewer ----

251-500 ----

501-2,000 ----

2,001-5,000 ----

5,001-10,000 ----

more than 10,000 ----

b. Approximately how many titles of magazines and other periodicals does your school library have?

Check **one** circle only.

0 ----

1-5 ----

6-10 ----

11-30 ----

31 or more ----

16

a. What is the total number of computers that can be used for instructional purposes by <fourth-grade> students?

_____ computers
Write in the number.

17

Does your school provide teachers with the following facilities?

Check **one** circle for each line.

- Yes No
- a) A workspace in the classroom ----- -----
 - b) A workspace shared by several teachers ----- -----
 - c) A separate workspace for each teacher (e.g., office) ----- -----

18

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

Check **one** circle for each line.

- Not at all A little Some A lot
- a) Qualified teaching staff ----- ----- ----- -----
 - b) Teachers with a specialization in reading ----- ----- ----- -----
 - c) Second language teachers ----- ----- ----- -----
 - d) Instructional materials (e.g., textbooks) ----- ----- ----- -----
 - e) Supplies (e.g., papers, pencils) ----- ----- ----- -----
 - f) School buildings and grounds ----- ----- ----- -----
 - g) Heating/cooling and lighting systems ----- ----- ----- -----
 - h) Instructional space (e.g., classrooms) ----- ----- ----- -----
 - i) Special equipment for physically disabled students ----- ----- ----- -----
 - j) Computers for instructional purposes ----- ----- ----- -----
 - k) Computer software for instructional purposes ----- ----- ----- -----
 - l) Computer support staff ----- ----- ----- -----
 - m) Library books ----- ----- ----- -----
 - n) Audio-visual resources ----- ----- ----- -----

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Are any of the following programs and services available at your school site for the children and families in your school?

Check **one** circle for each line.

Yes No

a) Adult literacy program for <language of test> speakers -----

b) Adult literacy program for non-<language of test> speakers -----

c) Parent education programs (e.g., classes on child development, education on being a parent) -----

d) Health or social services -----

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How often is each of the following provided by your school for <fourth-grade> students and/or their families?

Check **one** circle for each line.

Never Once a year
2-3 times a year
4-6 times a year
7 or more times a year

a) Teacher-parent conferences (individual or group) -----

b) Letters, calendars, newsletters, etc., sent home to provide parents with information about the school -----

c) Written reports (report cards or portfolios) of child's performance sent home -----

d) Events at school to which parents are invited -----

21

Approximately what percentage of students in your school have parents or guardians who do each of the following?

Check **one** circle for each line.

Not applicable 0-10%
11-25%
26-50%
More than 50%

a) Volunteer regularly to help in the classroom or another part of the school -----

b) Attend teacher-parent conferences -----

c) Attend cultural, sporting, or social events at the school -----

22

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

Check **one** circle for each line.

Very high
High
Medium
Low
Very low

a) Teachers' job satisfaction ----- ○-----○-----○-----○-----○

b) Teachers' expectations for student achievement-----○-----○-----○-----○-----○

c) Parental support for student achievement-----○-----○-----○-----○-----○

d) Students' regard for school property-----○-----○-----○-----○-----○

e) Students' desire to do well in school -----○-----○-----○-----○-----○

f) Students' regard for each other's welfare-----○-----○-----○-----○-----○

23

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

Check **one** circle for each line.

Not a problem
Minor problem
Moderate problem
Serious problem

a) Student tardiness-----○-----○-----○-----○

b) Student absenteeism (i.e., unjustified absences) -----○-----○-----○-----○

c) Classroom disturbance -----○-----○-----○-----○

d) Cheating -----○-----○-----○-----○

e) Profanity -----○-----○-----○-----○

f) Vandalism -----○-----○-----○-----○

g) Theft -----○-----○-----○-----○

h) Intimidation or verbal abuse among students -----○-----○-----○-----○

i) Physical conflicts among students-----○-----○-----○-----○

j) Drug abuse -----○-----○-----○-----○

k) Weapons-----○-----○-----○-----○

l) Racism -----○-----○-----○-----○

24

Does your school have an official policy statement related to promoting cooperation and collaboration among teachers?

Check **one** circle only.

Yes ----

No ----

25

About how often do the teachers in your school have *formally scheduled time* to meet to share or develop instructional materials and approaches?

Check **one** circle only.

At least 2-3 times a week ----

Once a week ----

Once a month ----

Less than once a month ----

Never ----

26

a. As principal of this school, approximately what percentage of your time is devoted to the following activities?

Write a percentage for each.

a) Developing curriculum and pedagogy for your school ----- %

b) Managing staff/staff development ----- %

c) Administrative duties (e.g., hiring, budgeting) ----- %

d) Parent and community relations ----- %

e) Teaching ----- %

f) Interacting with individual students ----- %

g) Other ----- %

Total = 100 %

b. On average, how many hours per week do you spend on these activities?

_____ hours
Write in a number.

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About how long did it take you to complete this questionnaire?

_____ minutes
Write in a number.

Thank You

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

Notes

Notes

TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center

Lynch School of Education, Boston College

pirls.bc.edu



**BOSTON
COLLEGE**

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