

Appendix G

Organizations and Individuals Responsible for PIRLS 2011

Introduction

PIRLS 2011 was a collaborative effort involving hundreds of individuals around the world. This appendix acknowledges the individuals and organizations for their contributions. Given that work on PIRLS 2011 has spanned approximately five years and has involved so many people and organizations, this list may not include all who contributed. Any omission is inadvertent. PIRLS 2011 also acknowledges the students, parents, teachers, and school principals who contributed their time and effort to the study. This report would not be possible without them.

Management and Coordination

PIRLS is a major undertaking of IEA, and together with the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) comprises the core of IEA's regular cycles of studies. The PIRLS assessment at the fourth grade complements TIMSS, which regularly assesses mathematics and science achievement at fourth and eighth grades.

The TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center at Boston College has responsibility for the overall direction and management of the TIMSS and PIRLS projects. Headed by Executive Directors Drs. Ina V.S. Mullis and Michael O. Martin, the study center is located in the Lynch School of Education. In carrying out the project, the TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center worked closely with the IEA Secretariat in Amsterdam, which managed country participation, was responsible for verification of all translations produced by the participating countries, and coordinated the school visits by International Quality Control Monitors. The IEA Data Processing and Research Center in Hamburg was responsible for processing and verifying the data submitted by the participants; Statistics Canada in Ottawa was responsible for school and student sampling activities; and Educational Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey consulted on psychometric methodology, provided software for scaling the achievement data, and replicated the achievement scaling for quality assurance.

The Project Management Team, comprising the study directors and representatives from the TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center, IEA Secretariat and IEA Data Processing and Research Center, Statistics Canada, and ETS met twice a year throughout the study to discuss the study's progress, procedures, and schedule. In addition, the study directors met with members of IEA's Technical Executive Group twice yearly to review technical issues.

To work with the international team and coordinate within-country activities, each participating country designates an individual to be the PIRLS National Research Coordinator (NRC). The NRCs have the challenging task of implementing the PIRLS study in their countries in accordance with the PIRLS guidelines and procedures. In addition, the NRCs provide feedback and contributions throughout the development of the PIRLS assessment. The quality of the PIRLS assessment and data depends on the work of the NRCs and their colleagues in carrying out the complex sampling, data collection, and scoring tasks involved. Continuing the tradition of exemplary work established in previous cycles of PIRLS, the PIRLS 2011 NRCs performed their many tasks with dedication, competence, energy, and goodwill, and have been commended by the IEA Secretariat, the TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center, the IEA Data Processing and Research Center, and Statistics Canada for their commitment to the project and the high quality of their work.

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