PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study) is an assessment of reading comprehension that has been monitoring trends in student achievement at five-year intervals since 2001. PIRLS represents the worldwide standard for reading comprehension at the fourth grade. As a new extension to PIRLS in 2016, ePIRLS—an innovative assessment of online reading—makes it possible for countries to understand how successful they are in preparing fourth grade students to read, comprehend, and interpret online information.

**Benefits of Participating in ePIRLS**

PIRLS/ePIRLS results are disseminated through the PIRLS International Report and via the Internet. A well-documented international database provides opportunities for research both within and across countries. Participating countries may use the ePIRLS assessment process and data to establish achievement goals for educational improvement relative to online reading, and to monitor progress toward these goals in a global context, as well as to improve teaching and learning through research and analysis of ePIRLS data.

**Participation Fee**

For countries that participate in PIRLS 2016, the ePIRLS 2016 participation fee is an additional US$12,500 plus €12,500 per year for five years. Alternately, participating countries may choose to pay a single installment of US$62,500 plus €62,500.

**For Country Enrollment, Contact:**

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The Significance of Online Literacy

The Internet has become the primary source for obtaining information at work, at home, and for school. And around the world, reading curricula are acknowledging the importance of online reading. In order to measure how well students read online, IEA has created ePIRLS—an innovative, online reading assessment.

ePIRLS uses an engaging, simulated Internet environment to measure fourth grade students’ achievement in reading for informational purposes.* The assessment presents fourth grade students with authentic school-like assignments about science and social studies topics, which align with purposes for school reading. ePIRLS allows a more accurate assessment of reading and comprehension skills beyond those used in “traditional” print material.

What makes IEA’s ePIRLS truly innovative is its simulated online interface and assessment design. After logging in to ePIRLS, students are introduced to their assignment. As ePIRLS begins, two windows appear: an Internet browser window, at left; and the ePIRLS assessment window, at right.

To successfully complete ePIRLS, students must not only be able to navigate and discriminate among informational texts in a non-linear online environment, students also must construct meaning from these Internet sources as well as retrieve data, make inferences, and integrate the online information. Importantly, at the end of the assessment, students must be able to synthesize information across multiple passages.

Each ePIRLS assessment task typically lasts about 40 minutes, and students will be asked to complete two tasks. Students may review their work at any time by scrolling back up through the assessment window.

*The development of ePIRLS benefited from the Online Reading Comprehension Assessment (ORCA).