

# Program for International Student Assessment (PISA)

*Overview*

**PISA 2025 (Spring 2025)**

A Publication of the National Center for Education Statistics at IES



## What is PISA?

The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) is an international assessment of students nearing the end of compulsory education that measures how well students apply their knowledge and skills in science, reading, and mathematics, and a newly developed component about learning in a digital world (LDW). Conducted eight times since 2000, the next round of PISA in 2025 will include students from more than 80 countries and education systems around the world, including the United States. PISA is coordinated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and conducted in the United States by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education.

## Why is PISA important and what are the benefits of participating?

Each school and student that participates in PISA plays a vital role in representing other schools and students that are similar. It is essential that sampled schools contribute to this important measurement of educational progress to ensure the U.S. sample reflects the knowledge and skills of *all* students across the country.

Schools participating in PISA may receive a school-level report (pending sample size and response rate requirements). The school report presents comparisons of your school's average scores with the average scores of participating education systems. The report also provides comparisons of your school with other similar U.S. schools based on specific school-level characteristics.



As a token of appreciation for participating, schools will receive \$250, the school coordinator will receive \$200, students who participate will each receive \$25 as well as 4 hours of volunteer service time.

PISA provides a unique opportunity for the United States to understand how well students nearing the end of compulsory education are prepared to enter the workforce or post-secondary education in comparison to their peers from more than 80 countries. Through participating in PISA, schools and students contribute to ongoing efforts to improve education in our country. PISA helps identify U.S. students' strengths and weaknesses in the domains of mathematics, reading, science, and LDW and offers insights into successful policies and practices in other countries.



## What will schools and students be asked to do in PISA?

PISA 2025 has three primary components: (1) a computer-based student assessment, (2) a computer-based student questionnaire, and (3) an online school questionnaire.

- Up to 52 students who are in grade 7 or higher and born in 2009 will be selected to participate in the PISA assessment, which takes about 3 and half hours, including instructions, breaks, and a questionnaire. Students will answer questions in various combinations of mathematics, reading, science, and the new LDW component.
- The principal of each school will be asked to appoint a staff member to act as the PISA school coordinator. The school coordinator will work with a PISA representative from Westat to coordinate the assessment and submit a student list for sampling. The principal of each school will also be asked to complete a 45-minute online questionnaire about school and student body characteristics and policies.

## How is PISA developed?

PISA is developed through an international collaborative process involving input from U.S. and international experts in science, reading, mathematics, LDW, and educational measurement. The PISA assessment materials are thoroughly reviewed by within-country experts to make sure the materials are appropriate for each country's students. Finally, the final assessment materials are endorsed by all participating countries.

## What do PISA questions look like?

Some items require students to select from among possible responses, while others require students to solve problems and provide written answers. Examples of PISA assessment questions are available at

<https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pisa/educators.asp> and <https://www.oecd.org/en/about/programmes/pisa/pisa-test.html>.

## Which countries are participating in PISA 2025?

Albania	Costa Rica	Hungary	Luxembourg	Paraguay	Ukraine
Argentina	Croatia	Iceland	Macao (China)	Peru	United Arab Emirates
Armenia	Cyprus	Indonesia	Malaysia	Philippines	United Kingdom
Australia	Czech Republic	Ireland	Malta	Poland	(excl. Scotland)
Austria	Denmark	Israel	Mauritius	Portugal	United Kingdom
Azerbaijan	Dominican Republic	Italy	Mexico	Qatar	(Scotland only)
Belgium (Flemish Community)	Dushanbe (Tajikistan)	Japan	Moldova (Republic of)	Romania	United States
Belgium (French Community)	Ecuador	Jordan	Mongolia	Rwanda	Uruguay
Brazil	Egypt	Kazakhstan	Montenegro	Saudi Arabia	Uzbekistan
Brunei Darussalam	El Salvador	Kenya	Morocco	Serbia	Vietnam
Bulgaria	Estonia	Korea (Republic of)	Netherlands	Singapore	Zambia
Cambodia	Finland	Kosovo	New Zealand	Slovak Republic	
Canada	France	Kurdistan Region (Iraq)	North Macedonia (Republic of)	Slovenia	
Chile	Georgia	Kyrgyzstan	Norway	Spain	
Chinese Taipei	Germany	Latvia	Palestinian Authority	Sweden	
Colombia	Greece	Lebanon	Panama	Switzerland	
	Guatemala	Lithuania		Thailand	
	Hong Kong (China)			Turkey	

## PISA 2025 Timeline of Activities

	September 2024- January 2025 Initial Contact	January-March 2025 Pre-assessment Contact	March-May 2025 Assessment Visit	Acknowledgements and Benefits
<b>Principal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify a school coordinator.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete an online School Questionnaire on the characteristics of your school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete an online School Questionnaire on the characteristics of your school (if not already completed).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Represent other similar U.S. schools.</li> <li>Schools will receive \$250 for participating.</li> </ul>
<b>School Coordinator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Select an assessment date convenient for your school.</li> <li>Determine parent notification procedures.</li> <li>Provide a list of eligible students to PISA staff.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notify selected students, and students' parents, of the study and importance of participating.</li> <li>Schedule a meeting with the selected students prior to the assessment.</li> <li>Notify teachers of the assessment and request that teachers release the selected students from class on assessment day.</li> <li>Finalize assessment details with your PISA representative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrange assessment space.</li> <li>Ensure all sampled students are released from class and attend the assessment.</li> <li>Briefly meet with PISA staff after the assessment.</li> <li>Confirm the principal's completion of the school questionnaire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receive \$200 as a thank you for time and effort in coordinating the assessment.</li> </ul>
<b>Students</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take the assessment and complete a student questionnaire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receive a Certificate of Volunteer Service for 4 hours of community service.</li> <li>Represent other U.S. students like themselves and contribute to the profile of what our nation's students know and can do.</li> <li>Receive \$25 as a thank you for participating.</li> </ul>
<b>PISA Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide the school with materials explaining PISA and its importance.</li> <li>Work with the school coordinator to set an assessment date.</li> <li>Safeguard data collected from schools, staff, and students.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Select a random sample of eligible students to participate.</li> <li>Call the school coordinator to discuss assessment day, space, and student participation.</li> <li>Provide online access information for the school questionnaire to the principal.</li> <li>Hold student meeting prior to the assessment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct assessment from start to finish.</li> <li>Provide all the assessment materials and computers.</li> <li>Briefly meet with school coordinator after the assessment.</li> <li>Pack up the materials to ensure that the assessments are complete and secure.</li> </ul>	

**Find Out More** <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pisa/>





The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is authorized to conduct the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA 2002, 20 U.S.C. §9543). The data are being collected for NCES by Westat, a U.S.-based research organization. All of the information you provide 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.C. §9573 and 6 U.S.C. §151). The U.S. Office of Management and Budget has approved this data collection under OMB #1850-0755. Approval Expires 09/30/2026.