

APPENDIX C

Organizations and Individuals Responsible for PIRLS 2021

Introduction

PIRLS 2021 was a collaborative effort involving hundreds of individuals around the world. This appendix acknowledges the key individuals and organizations for their contributions. Given that the work on PIRLS 2021 spanned more than five years and involved so many people and organizations, this is not a comprehensive list of everyone who contributed. PIRLS 2021 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 Science and Mathematics 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 the fourth and eighth grades.

PIRLS 2021 was conducted by IEA's TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center, which is responsible for the overall direction and management of TIMSS and PIRLS, including design, development, and implementation. Headed by Executive Directors Drs. [Ina V.S. Mullis](#) and [Matthias von Davier](#), the study center is located in the Lynch School of Education and Human Development at Boston College. The TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center worked closely with IEA Amsterdam, which was responsible for country participation, verification of all translations produced by the participating countries, and coordinating school visits for the International Quality Control Monitors. In addition, staff at IEA Hamburg worked with participating countries to organize sampling and data management operations and to check all data for accuracy and consistency within and across countries. Statistics Canada in Ottawa was responsible for school and student sampling activities.

The Project Management Team, comprising the study directors and representatives from the TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center, IEA Amsterdam, IEA Hamburg, and Statistics Canada 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 each year 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 PIRLS in their countries in accordance with the PIRLS guidelines and procedures. In addition, the NRCs contribute to the development of PIRLS and provide input throughout the course of the project. 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. The PIRLS 2021 NRCs worked tirelessly to support PIRLS 2021 data collection despite the difficult circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. They performed their many tasks with dedication, competence, energy, and goodwill. PIRLS 2021 owes its success to the commitment and determination of the NRCs and their colleagues.

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