

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

What is TIMSS?

TIMSS is the **T**rends in **I**nternational **M**athematics and **S**cience **S**tudy. Since 1995, TIMSS has monitored trends in mathematics and science achievement at Year 4 and Year 8 every four years. TIMSS 2019 is the seventh TIMSS assessment cycle and involves around 60 countries. Due to the international assessment timetable, southern hemisphere countries (such as Australia) will undertake the assessment in the year before – in 2018.

Internationally, TIMSS is managed by International Association for the Evaluation of Education Achievement (IEA), an international cooperative of national research institutions working to evaluate, understand and improve education worldwide.

In Australia, TIMSS is managed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Education and Training and the State and Territory Departments of Education. TIMSS is one of the international assessments in Australia's National Assessment Program which encompasses all tests endorsed by the Education Council. Under the Education Act 2013 (Cth), participation in TIMSS is an obligation for all schools selected. TIMSS results are used to evaluate progress towards the Educational Goals for Young Australians and the National Education Agreement outcome that Australian students excel by international standards.

Who will be involved in TIMSS in Australia?

Sixty schools from New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria have been randomly selected for the field trial for TIMSS in **March 2018**. In each of those schools, whole classes of Year 5 or Year 9 students are randomly selected to participate.

For the main survey, 580 schools from all Australian states and territories have been randomly selected to participate in TIMSS in **November 2018**. In each of those schools, whole classes of Year 4 or Year 8 students are randomly selected to participate.

My class is participating – What will I need to do?

- ◆ The assessment will be administered at school, during school hours.
- ◆ You will be asked to complete an assessment booklet comprising both science and mathematics questions and also answer a questionnaire that asks about your home background, your attitudes towards learning, and experience at school.
- ◆ There is no need to do any special study – we just want to know what you can do when you try your best. Some of the questions will be easy and some will be harder (including some on topics you may not have seen before, since Australian students may study different topics to students in other countries).
- ◆ You'll receive a certificate for representing Australia and a small gift for participating in TIMSS.

What will be done with the results from TIMSS?

- ◆ In **December 2020**, the international and national reports for TIMSS will be released, providing information about how Year 4 and Year 8 students across the world performed on the TIMSS assessment, and providing information about what contextual factors might influence teaching and learning.
- ◆ The Australian report shows the results for Australia, makes comparisons between our results and other countries, and also looks at how well different groups, such as males and females and students from different socioeconomic backgrounds, in Australia perform. Previous Australian reports as well as the TIMSS database can be accessed at: www.acer.org/timss/data-and-reports.
- ◆ Individual student answers will not be shown when the results are presented, and there is no identification of any students or their schools in any information that is available in the public domain.

Privacy Statement

ACER recognises the privacy of individuals as fundamental in relation to the conduct of TIMSS. All data collected by ACER in its administration of TIMSS is handled in accordance with relevant privacy laws and ACER's privacy policy, locatable at the web address below.

Such data may contain your child's personal information. The Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) (the Act) describes personal information as that information or opinion that tends to identify a particular individual, such as name and date of birth.

As a result of your child's participation in TIMSS, ACER may collect students' personal information. Should such personal information not be supplied there are no consequences for you or your child. ACER may also collect sensitive information such as ethnicity directly from the student via questionnaire. Answering questions in the TIMSS assessment or TIMSS questionnaire is voluntary.

Please note that no individual student or school will be identified in data or reports published by either ACER or the IEA.

By your child participating in TIMSS, you CONSENT to:

- 1 ACER's collection, use and storage of your child's sensitive information such as ethnicity;
- 2 ACER's disclosure of your child's personal information (including sensitive information) to:
 - a the ACER Test Administrators which assist in administering TIMSS;
 - b state and commonwealth educational authorities or statutory bodies which support or have an interest in TIMSS; and
 - c IEA Hamburg (a non-profit organisation) in Germany for the purpose of TIMSS data analysis.

Should you not wish to consent, please contact your child's school or pursue your right to complain as set out in the 'Your Rights' section below.

Your rights

ACER takes seriously the protection of your child's personal information. ACER will abide by the Act.

You and your child have the right to:

- 1 inspect the respective personal information;
- 2 request amendment of personal information; and
- 3 make a complaint in respect of a breach of your child's privacy.

To exercise any or all of the above rights please review ACER's privacy policy locatable at: <http://www.acer.org/privacy> which sets out the processes of how you may attend to the same.

For more information, please contact:

The TIMSS Information Line

1800 220 411

Email

timss@acer.org

Visit

www.acer.org/timss