Foreword

Teachers, school leaders and local administrators often ask me "How do we find out where our school stands in a global context? What can our school or our local school district learn from the highest performing school systems in other countries, or simply from schools that are similar to our own?" The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) provides this information at a national-level, but over a decade ago we decided to develop a tool that would give schools and school districts an answer to their questions. The PISA-based Test for Schools is based on the global PISA assessment but designed to be used by individual schools and districts.

Teachers know how important it is for their students to be prepared to enter a global economy where the benchmark for educational success is no longer improvement by national standards alone, but the best performing education systems internationally. What I have learned since the assessment was first administered is that teachers, school leaders and local educators are just as interested in international benchmarking as national policymakers, provided that information comes with tangible insights on how to leverage improvement. They are also actively seeking to connect with their peers around the world to share their professional insights by collaborating and learning from one another. This is not about copying prefabricated solutions from other places; it is about looking seriously and dispassionately at good practice in our own environment and elsewhere to become more knowledgeable about what works and in which contexts. Supporting school leaders, teachers and educators in achieving their aspirations is what PISA for Schools is all about.

Andreas Schleicher – OECD Director for Education and Skills

What are the aims of the PISA for Schools project?

The PISA for Schools project has **two main goals**:

(1) To provide the PISA-based Test for Schools and

(2) To develop opportunities for global peer-learning on improving learning outcomes.

The project provides a school-level assessment to prompt discussions on the types of knowledge, skills and competencies that are relevant in a rapidly changing world and and aims to provide a valuable cross-national learning experience for teachers and school leaders on how to develop these.

PISA for Schools aims to:
- Empower school leaders and teachers by providing them with evidence-based analysis of their students' performance.
- Measure students' ability to retrieve and creatively apply knowledge.
- Provide valuable information on the learning climate within a school by collecting data on students' socio-economic background and motivation for learning.
- Help schools measure key components of 21st century skills beyond reading, mathematics and science, such as social and emotional skills.
- Foster opportunities for global peer-learning among school leaders, teachers and education officials.
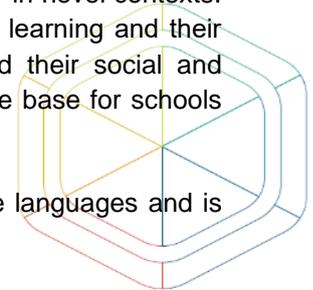
What is the PISA-based Test for Schools?

The PISA-based Test for Schools is a voluntary assessment that supports school improvement efforts and benchmarking based on the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). The project contributes to improving student learning and well-being by empowering teachers and school leaders through global connections and international benchmarking based on a common scale provided by PISA.
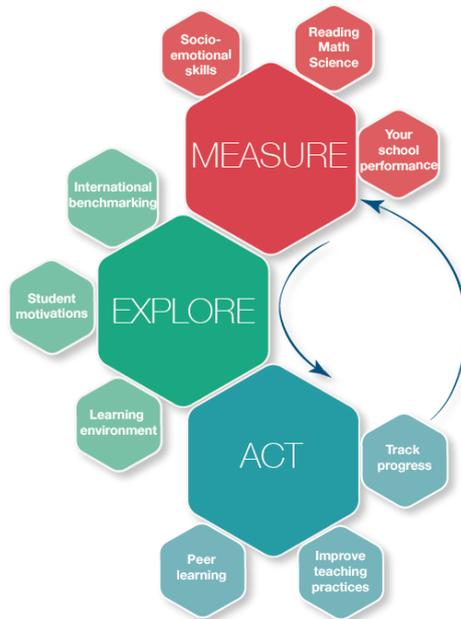
Like PISA, the PISA-based Test for Schools measures 15-year-old students' abilities to think critically, solve problems and communicate effectively in the content areas of reading, mathematics and science. The assessment measures not only whether students can reproduce what they have learned, but how well they can extrapolate from what they know and apply their knowledge creatively in novel contexts. The student questionnaire also collects information on students' attitudes towards learning and their school's learning environment, as well as their socio-economic background and their social and emotional skills. The data collected in each school report provides a solid evidence base for schools seeking to improve teaching and learning for all students.

To ensure alignment with PISA, the assessment is available in digitally, in multiple languages and is delivered by Janison Pty Ltd as the International Platform Provider (IPP).

The OECD's PISA for Schools project helps schools measure, explore and act

- Generates school-level reports on student performance in reading, mathematics and science
- Delivers insights into student engagement and socio-emotional skills
- Enables international comparisons and benchmarking between schools

- Offers a common framework for schools to share good practice globally
- Generates data on student performance and well-being to guide teaching and learning
- Provides information on the school learning climate

- Contributes to defining aspirations and baselines for school improvement
- Informs school-level actions to improve student performance and well-being
- Offers international peer-learning in student assessment and school improvement

Key facts on the PISA-based Test for Schools

15-year-olds

Like PISA, the PISA-based Test for Schools is designed to assess secondary school students near the end of their compulsory education.

+9.000 school tests

Over 300 000 students have participated in the assessment, which has been administered over 9 000 times in schools in 15 countries.

2 hours

The assessment takes 2 hours to complete and focuses on how well students can apply their skills in reading, mathematics and science.

30 minutes

The student questionnaire takes 30 minutes and delivers valuable insights into socio-economic background, attitudes towards learning, school climate and social and emotional skills.

15 languages

The assessment can be adapted to multiple languages and has been delivered in Arabic, Basque, Castilian Spanish, Catalan, English, French, Galician, German, Japanese, Kazakh, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Thai and Welsh.

Digital delivery

The test is delivered in digital format, both online and offline, via the common international platform.

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How can schools use the PISA-based Test for Schools to improve learning outcomes?

The assessment has been implemented in the following countries and territories in the past decade:

Andorra	Colombia	Thailand
Australia	Japan	United Arab Emirates
Brazil	Kazakhstan	United Kingdom
Brunei Darussalam	Portugal	United States
People's Republic of China	Spain	

School leaders and teachers have reported using their results to:

- Set ambitious but realistic goals by benchmarking school performance against the best school systems worldwide and promote a school culture that strives for higher achievement levels for all students.

- Understand concepts such as social and emotional skills and deeper learning, and how to foster them in the classroom.

- Better understand and address the challenges faced by low-performing students.

- Create peer-learning communities and networks with other schools and teachers.

How does PISA for Schools foster global peer-learning?

PISA for Schools aims to create and encourage peer-learning opportunities, enabling schools around the world to connect and work together to build practical resources designed to help students learn better, teachers teach better and schools to become more engaging learning environments.

PISA FOR SCHOOLS COMMUNITY

PISA for Schools regularly proposes activities designed to meet the needs of educators and school leaders drawing upon the experience and insights of schools that have administered the PISA-based Test for Schools. The aim is to provide a space to share and solve problems, learn from other contexts and experiences, and to support school leaders, teachers and educators as they pursue innovation in their own classrooms and schools. Some of the activities include:

- **Webinars:** The OECD offers webinars on 'how to read your PISA for Schools school report' as well as on themes of interest to schools featuring OECD experts, members of the community or partners.
- **Social media**: A LinkedIn page shares the latest news from the project.
- **Online community page:** Features case studies prepared by participating schools describing their challenges, how they used their PISA-based Test for Schools' results and offering their own good practices to help others solve common challenges.
- **Events**: In collaboration with national partners, the OECD designs and delivers tailored peer-learning workshops and events for school leaders and educators.
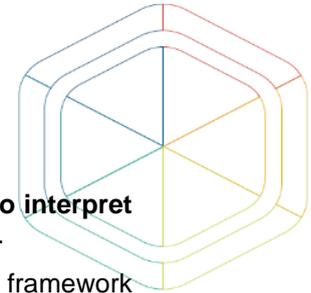
oecdpisaforschools.org

How to join PISA for Schools

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST	Schools, school networks, private entity or public authorities inform the OECD of their interest to join the project.	**1**
NATIONAL EDUCATION AUTHORITIES' APPROVAL	The OECD Secretariat obtains the approval to offer the PISA-based Test for Schools from the relevant PISA Governing Board Representative.	**2**
ACCREDITATION OF A NATIONAL SERVICE PROVIDER	The OECD accredits a National Service Provider (NSP) on the basis of its capacity to meet the standards required by the OECD. The NSP signs an agreement with the OECD and a contract with the International Platform Provider.	**3**
PREPARATIONS FOR TEST DELIVERY	The PISA-based Test for Schools assessment is translated into the official language(s) and validated by the OECD. After which a validation study (field trial) is conducted in the country or school network to ensure the reliability and validity of the assessment.	**4**
ON-DEMAND TESTING	Once the validation study is complete, the test can be delivered on demand within the agreed test period to any eligible school that meets the criteria set out in the Technical Report.	**5**

What's next for PISA for Schools?

Looking ahead, the PISA for Schools project aims to:

- Build on assessment results for school improvement **by helping schools to interpret their results** and apply insights from data to improve teaching and learning.

- Offer **global peer-learning opportunities** that leverage the common framework provided by the PISA-based Test for Schools to inform professional development and exchange of good practices among teachers and school leaders worldwide.

- **Increase the number and range of schools** participating in the project worldwide.

- Develop additional measures of **21st century skills** based on OECD work and PISA's innovative domains, including social and emotional skillsand creative thinking.

- Provide schools with **insights into students' global competence** by incorporating the Global Competence Module developed by PISA.

- Offer educators and analysts the opportunity to gain in-depth understanding of student proficiencies through **item-level analysis and item development** based on the PISA frameworks.

OECD and the Directorate for Education and Skills

The OECD promotes policies to improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. It provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems. The organisation:

- works with governments to understand what drives economic, social and environmental change
- measures productivity and global flows of trade and investment
- analyses and compares data to predict future trends
- sets international standards on a wide range of activities and products
- looks at issues that directly affect people's daily lives, like how well countries' school systems are preparing their young people for modern life
- recommends policies designed to improve the quality of people's lives.

The OECD Directorate for Education and Skills focuses on helping countries to identify and develop the knowledge and skills that drive better jobs and better lives, generate prosperity and promote social inclusion, and accompanies them in the difficult process of policy implementation.