

Identification Label

School ID:

School Name:

Progress in International Reading Literacy Study

# PIRLS 2006

## SCHOOL QUESTIONNAIRE



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Evaluation of Educational Achievement

**National Center for Education Statistics**

U.S. Department of Education  
1990 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006

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## **School** *Questionnaire*

Your school has been selected to participate in the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), an educational research project sponsored by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). PIRLS is investigating student achievement in reading literacy in about 40 countries around the world. It is designed to measure and interpret differences in national education systems in order to help improve the teaching and learning of reading worldwide.

This questionnaire is addressed to school principals who are asked to supply information about their schools. Since your school has been selected as part of a nationwide sample, your responses are very important in helping to describe the education in the United States.

It is important that you answer each question carefully so that the information provided reflects the situation in your school as accurately as possible. Some of the questions will require that you look up school records, so you may wish to arrange for the assistance of another staff member to help provide this information. It is estimated that it will require approximately 30 minutes to complete this questionnaire.

Since PIRLS is an international study and all countries are using the same questionnaire, you may find that some of the questions seem unusual or are not entirely relevant to you or schools in the United States. Nevertheless, it is important that you do your best to answer all of the questions so comparisons can be made across countries in the study.

A Test Administrator from RTI International will pick up the completed questionnaire on the day that the students are scheduled to complete the PIRLS assessment at your school. If for any reason the Test Administrator fails to connect with you, a Business Reply Envelope will be supplied for you to return the questionnaire directly to RTI International.

Thank You.

# PIRLS 2006

## 1

What is the total enrollment of students in your school as of January 1, 2006?

\_\_\_\_\_ students  
Write in a number.

## 2

What is the total enrollment of fourth-grade students in your school as of January 1, 2006?

\_\_\_\_\_ students  
Write in a number.

## 3

How many people live in the city, town, or area in which your school is located?

Check **one** circle only.

- Fewer than 3,000 people ---
- 3,001 to 15,000 people ---
- 15,001 to 50,000 people ---
- 50,001 to 100,000 people ---
- 100,001 to 500,000 people ---
- More than 500,000 people ---

## 4

How would you characterize the area in which your school is located?

Check **one** circle only.

- Urban ---
- Suburban ---
- Rural ---

## 5

For the fourth-grade students in your school, about how many students receive free or reduced-price lunch?

Check **one** circle only.

- All ---
- Some ---
- None ---

## 6

Approximately what percentage of students in your school...

Check **one** circle for each line.

- 0-10%      11-25%      26-50%      More than 50%
- a) come from economically disadvantaged homes? -----
  - b) come from economically affluent homes? -----
  - c) do not speak English as their first language? -----
  - d) receive some instruction at school in their home language (other than English) -----

**7**

For the fourth-grade students in your school:

a. How many days per year is your school open for instruction?

\_\_\_\_\_ days  
Write in the number.

b. What is the total instructional time, excluding breaks, in a typical day?

\_\_\_\_\_ hours and \_\_\_\_\_ minutes  
Write in the number of hours and minutes.

c. In one calendar week, how many days is the school open for instruction?

Check **one** circle only.

- 6 days ----
- 5 1/2 days ----
- 5 days ----
- 4 1/2 days ----
- 4 days ----
- Other ----

Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

**8**

Does your school offer the following for the fourth-grade students in your school?

Check **one** circle only.

a) Extended instructional time (beyond the prescribed minimum)-----

Yes  No

**If Yes,**

How many students participate?

Check **one** circle only.

- 0-25% ----
- 26-50% ----
- 51-75% ----
- 76-100% ----

Check **one** circle only.

b) Before or after-school child care-----

Yes  No

**If Yes,**

How many students participate?

Check **one** circle only.

- 0-25% ----
- 26-50% ----
- 51-75% ----
- 76-100% ----

**9**

About how many of the students in your school can do the following when they begin first grade?

Check **one** circle for each line.

Less than 25%      25-50%      51-75%      More than 75%

a) Recognize most of the letters of the alphabet -----

b) Read some words -----

c) Read sentences -----

d) Write letters of the alphabet -----

e) Write some words -----

**10**

Compared with other areas of the curriculum (e.g., mathematics and science), how much emphasis does your school place on teaching the following language and literacy skills to students in grades 1 to 4?

Check **one** circle for each line.

More emphasis      Same emphasis      Less emphasis

a) Reading -----

b) Writing (not handwriting) -----

c) Speaking/listening (oral language) -----

**11**

Does your school have the following?

Check **one** circle for each line.

Yes      No

a) Its own written statement of the reading curriculum to be taught in the school (in addition to the national or regional curriculum guides) -----

b) Informal initiatives to encourage students to read (for example, book clubs, independent reading contests, school-wide recreational reading periods) -----

c) School-based programs for teachers geared towards the improvement of reading instruction -----

d) Its own guidelines on how to coordinate reading instruction across teachers -----

# 12

How does your school use the following materials in your reading instructional program for students in fourth grade and below?

Check **one** circle for each line.

	Basis for instruction	Supplement	Not used	Varies by teacher/grade
a) Reading series (basal readers, graded readers) -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) Textbooks -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) A variety of children's books -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) Materials from different curricular areas -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e) Children's newspapers and/or magazines -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f) Computer programs that teach students to read -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

# 13

At which grade do the following reading skills and strategies **first** receive a **major emphasis** in instruction in your school?

Check **one** circle for each line.

	First grade+earlier	Second grade	Third grade	Fourth grade	Not in these grades
a) Knowing letters of the alphabet -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) Knowing letter-sound relationships -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) Reading words -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) Reading isolated sentences -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e) Reading connected text -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f) Identifying the main idea of text -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g) Explaining or supporting understanding of text -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h) Comparing text with personal experience -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i) Comparing different texts -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j) Making predictions about what will happen next in text -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k) Making generalizations and inferences based on text -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l) Describing style and structure of text -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14

For students in fourth-grade and below, does your school make provisions for reading instruction in mother tongue for students whose mother tongue is not English?

Check **one** circle only.

- Yes ----
- No ----

15

Does your school have a school library?

Check **one** circle only.

Yes ----

No ----

(If No, go to #16)

**If Yes,**

a. Approximately how many books with different titles does your school library have (exclude magazines and periodicals)?

Check **one** circle only.

250 or fewer ----

251-500 ----

501-2,000 ----

2,001-5,000 ----

5,001-10,000 ----

more than 10,000 ----

b. Approximately how many titles of magazines and other periodicals does your school library have?

Check **one** circle only.

0 ----

1-5 ----

6-10 ----

11-30 ----

31 or more ----

16

What is the total number of computers that can be used for instructional purposes by fourth-grade students?

\_\_\_\_\_computers  
Write in the number.

17

Does your school provide teachers with the following facilities?

Check **one** circle for each line.

- Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- a) A workspace in the classroom -----  -----
  - b) A workspace shared by several teachers -----  -----
  - c) A separate workspace for each teacher (e.g., office)-----  -----

18

How much is your school's capacity to provide instruction affected by a shortage or inadequacy of the following?

Check **one** circle for each line.

- Not at all \_\_\_\_\_ A little \_\_\_\_\_ Some \_\_\_\_\_ A lot \_\_\_\_\_
- a) Qualified teaching staff -----  -----  -----  -----
  - b) Teachers with a specialization in reading -----  -----  -----  -----
  - c) Second language teachers -----  -----  -----  -----
  - d) Instructional materials (e.g., textbooks) -----  -----  -----  -----
  - e) Supplies (e.g., papers, pencils)-----  -----  -----  -----
  - f) School buildings and grounds -----  -----  -----  -----
  - g) Heating/cooling and lighting systems -----  -----  -----  -----
  - h) Instructional space (e.g., classrooms)-----  -----  -----  -----
  - i) Special equipment for physically disabled students --  -----  -----  -----
  - j) Computers for instructional purposes -----  -----  -----  -----
  - k) Computer software for instructional purposes -----  -----  -----  -----
  - l) Computer support staff-----  -----  -----  -----
  - m) Library books -----  -----  -----  -----
  - n) Audio-visual resources -----  -----  -----  -----



## 19

Are any of the following programs and services available at your school site for the children and families in your school?

Check **one** circle for each line.

	Yes	No
a) Adult literacy program for English speakers -----	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) Adult literacy program for non-English speakers -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) Parent education programs (e.g., classes on child development, education on being a parent) -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) Health or social services -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## 20

How often is each of the following provided by your school for fourth-grade students and/or their families?

Check **one** circle for each line.

	Never	Once a year	2-3 times a year	4-6 times a year	7 or more times a year
a) Teacher-parent conferences (individual or group) -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) Letters, calendars, newsletters, etc., sent home to provide parents with information about the school -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) Written reports (report cards or portfolios) of child's performance sent home -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) Events at school to which parents are invited -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## 21

Approximately what percentage of students in your school have parents or guardians who do each of the following?

Check **one** circle for each line.

	Not applicable	0-10%	11-25%	26-50%	More than 50%
a) Volunteer regularly to help in the classroom or another part of the school -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) Attend teacher-parent conferences -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) Attend cultural, sporting, or social events at the school -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**22**

How would you characterize each of the following within your school?

Check **one** circle for each line.

Very high  
High  
Medium  
Low  
Very low

a) Teachers' job satisfaction ----- ○-----○-----○-----○-----○

b) Teachers' expectations for student achievement-----○-----○-----○-----○-----○

c) Parental support for student achievement-----○-----○-----○-----○-----○

d) Students' regard for school property-----○-----○-----○-----○-----○

e) Students' desire to do well in school -----○-----○-----○-----○-----○

f) Students' regard for each other's welfare-----○-----○-----○-----○-----○

**23**

To what degree is each of the following a problem in your school?

Check **one** circle for each line.

Not a problem  
Minor problem  
Moderate problem  
Serious problem

a) Student tardiness-----○-----○-----○-----○

b) Student absenteeism (i.e., unjustified absences) -----○-----○-----○-----○

c) Classroom disturbance -----○-----○-----○-----○

d) Cheating -----○-----○-----○-----○

e) Profanity -----○-----○-----○-----○

f) Vandalism -----○-----○-----○-----○

g) Theft -----○-----○-----○-----○

h) Intimidation or verbal abuse among students -----○-----○-----○-----○

i) Physical conflicts among students-----○-----○-----○-----○

j) Drug abuse -----○-----○-----○-----○

k) Weapons-----○-----○-----○-----○

l) Racism -----○-----○-----○-----○

**24**

Does your school have an official policy statement related to promoting cooperation and collaboration among teachers?

Check **one** circle only.

Yes ----

No ----

**25**

About how often do the teachers in your school have *formally scheduled time* to meet to share or develop instructional materials and approaches?

Check **one** circle only.

At least 2-3 times a week ----

Once a week ----

Once a month ----

Less than once a month ----

Never ----

**26**

a. As principal of this school, approximately what percentage of your time is devoted to the following activities?

Write a percentage for each.

a) Developing curriculum and pedagogy for your school ----- %

b) Managing staff/staff development ----- %

c) Administrative duties (e.g., hiring, budgeting) ----- %

d) Parent and community relations ----- %

e) Teaching ----- %

f) Interacting with individual students ----- %

g) Other ----- %

**Total = 100 %**

b. On average, how many hours per week do you spend on these activities?

\_\_\_\_\_ hours  
Write in a number.

**27**

About how long did it take you to complete this questionnaire?

\_\_\_\_\_ minutes  
Write in a number.

# Thank You

**Thank you for the thought, time, and effort you have put into completing this questionnaire.**

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## Notes

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## Notes

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**TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center**

Lynch School of Education, Boston College

pirls.bc.edu



**BOSTON  
COLLEGE**

Progress in International Reading Literacy Study

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