

The logo features a central white hexagon with a thick, multi-colored border. The border is composed of six segments in different colors: dark blue, red, yellow, light green, teal, and light blue. The text 'PISA for Schools' is centered within the white hexagon.

**PISA**  
for  
**Schools**

# 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 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 on demand; 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 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' socioeconomic background and motivation for learning through the student questionnaires.
- Help schools measure key components of 21st century skills beyond maths, reading and science, such as collaborative problem solving.
- 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. Student questionnaires also collect information on students' attitudes towards learning and their school's learning environment, as well as their socioeconomic background. 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 data collected in each school report provides a solid evidence base for schools seeking to improve teaching and learning for all students.

## 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.

**+2000 school tests**



The assessment has been successfully administered over 2 200 times in schools in 10 countries around the world.

**141 items**



All items are based on the PISA framework and deliver results on the PISA scale.

**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 socioeconomic background, attitudes towards learning and school climate.

**9 languages**



The assessment can be delivered in multiple languages and is currently available in English, Castilian Spanish, Basque, Catalan, Galician, Arabic, Portuguese, Russian and Welsh.

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

The assessment is currently available to schools in the following countries:

Andorra	Colombia	United Arab Emirates
Brazil	Mexico	United Kingdom
Brunei Darussalam	Moscow, Russia	United States
People's Republic of China	Spain	

School leaders and teachers have reported using 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.

### **Match My School**

To enable participating schools to connect globally, the project has developed a functioning prototype of a “Match My School” online platform. Once live, this platform would allow schools that have taken the PISA-based Test for Schools to share their own results and experiences and to contact one another to exchange information about teaching practices.

### **Global Learning Network**

The Global Learning Network is a learning community of educators and district leaders who have taken the PISA-based test for Schools, learned from their results and global best practices, and made practice shifts that contribute to improved student outcomes.

## How to join PISA for Schools

1. **Expression of interest:** Schools, school networks or public authorities inform the OECD of their interest to join the project.
2. **Approval by national education authorities:** The OECD Secretariat will then obtain approval to offer the PISA-based Test for Schools from the relevant PISA Governing Board Representative.
3. **Establishment of an agreement with the OECD:** The schools, school networks or public authorities then sign an agreement with the OECD which includes a voluntary contribution.
4. **Identification and accreditation of a National Service Provider:** The schools, school networks or public authorities identify a National Service Provider (NSP) to deliver the test, in consultation with the OECD. The OECD accredits the NSP on the basis of its capacity to meet the standards required.
5. **Preparations for assessment 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.
6. **On-demand testing:** Once the validation study (field trial) is complete, the test can be delivered on demand to any eligible school which meets the criteria set out in the Technical Report and Guidelines.



## What's next for PISA for Schools?

Looking ahead, the PISA for Schools project aims to:

- Increase the relevance and value of the assessment for school improvement by helping schools to interpret their results and apply the lessons to improve teaching and learning.
- Develop global peer-learning opportunities which 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 by reducing participation costs through digital delivery of the assessment.
- Develop additional performance measures for 21st century skills based on PISA's innovative domains such as collaborative problem solving, global competence and creative thinking.

## Find out more

For more information on the PISA for Schools project, please visit:  
[www.oecd.org/pisa/pisa-based-test-for-schools](http://www.oecd.org/pisa/pisa-based-test-for-schools)

Find out more online from our FAQs, videos and documentation,  
including the Technical Report, guidelines and a sample copy of the school report.

For any questions, please contact the OECD Secretariat directly at:  
[pisabasedtestforschools@oecd.org](mailto:pisabasedtestforschools@oecd.org)

