# TIMSS and PIRLS 2011
# Linking Students to their Teachers and Classes

To link the data from students, teachers, and schools, TIMSS and PIRLS have developed a system to assign hierarchical identification codes (IDs) to schools, classes, students and teachers. The following exhibit illustrates the hierarchical identification system codes.

| Participant | ID Components | ID Structure | Numeric Example |
|---|---|---|---|
| School | School | CCCC | 0001 |
| Class | School + Class within the school | CCCCKK | 000101 000102 |
| Student | School + Class within the school + Student within the class | CCCCKKSS | 00010101 00010201 |
| Student | School + Teacher within the school + Linkage number to the sampled class | CCCCTTLL | 00010101 00010201 |

The school, class, and student IDs are strictly hierarchical, with classes nested within schools and students nested within classes. Each teacher is assigned a teacher identification number consisting of the four-digit school number followed by a two-digit teacher number. Since a teacher could be teaching reading/language, mathematics, and/or science to some or all of the students in a class, it is necessary to have a unique identification number for each teacher linked to a class and to certain students within the class. This is achieved by adding a two-digit link number to the six digits of the teacher identification number to create a unique eight-digit identification number. This is very important so that during data analyses, each class and student is linked to a teacher, and student outcomes can be analyzed in relation to teacher-level variables.