



# PIRLS 2011

IEA's Program for Assessing Reading Achievement in Primary School

## Meeting the Needs of a Range of Countries

prePIRLS

6<sup>th</sup>

5<sup>th</sup>

4<sup>th</sup>

more challenging

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IEA's PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study) represents the worldwide standard for reading comprehension at the fourth grade. With 55 countries participating in PIRLS 2011 and more than a decade of experience, PIRLS provides:

- Internationally comparative data about students' reading achievement at the fourth grade, an important transition point in children's development as readers. In many countries children are expected to have learned to read, and to now be reading to learn.
- Trend information for monitoring progress in teaching and learning reading. Conducted every five years, PIRLS collects a rich array of information about the reading curriculum and instruction in each participating country.

For these countries, participation in PIRLS at the fifth or sixth grade will provide detailed information about students' strengths and weaknesses in an international context, whereas participation at the fourth grade will provide only the information that students lack reading comprehension skills.

### prePIRLS at the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, or 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

prePIRLS is a stepping stone to participating in PIRLS and provides a way to assess reading at the end of the primary school cycle for a range of developing countries. prePIRLS reflects the same conception of reading as PIRLS, except it is less difficult.

Depending on a country's educational development, prePIRLS can be given at the fourth, fifth, or sixth grade.

Designed to test basic reading skills that are prerequisites for success on PIRLS, the prePIRLS assessment is consistent with the PIRLS framework, which is grounded in literary and informational reading. The prePIRLS assessment enables countries to examine the following: Can students recognize words and phrases? Read sentences? Simple paragraphs? Retrieve explicitly stated information? Make straightforward inferences?

Participation in prePIRLS prepares countries for moving toward participation in PIRLS. The prePIRLS assessment will provide valuable diagnostic information about strengths and weaknesses in students' reading skills and important policy information about the necessary steps to improve students' reading.

### Choices in 2011 – Extending PIRLS to Meet the Needs of More Countries

For a variety of reasons, there are countries where most children in the fourth grade are still developing fundamental reading skills. IEA offers several options for matching the PIRLS assessment to the country's educational development.

#### PIRLS at the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

In some countries, students are more likely to have developed the reading comprehension competencies necessary for success on PIRLS by the fifth or sixth grade.



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