

# TIMSS & PIRLS in 2011

IEA's PIRLS assessment of reading literacy at the fourth grade also will be conducted in 2011. PIRLS 2011 is the most recent in a series of state-of-the-art reading assessments conducted internationally.



About 40 countries are planning to participate in both TIMSS and PIRLS at the fourth grade to conduct one comprehensive assessment of three essential subjects—mathematics, science, and reading.

## Participating in PIRLS 2011 together with TIMSS 2011 will provide:

At fourth grade,

- One comprehensive international assessment of core curriculum areas—mathematics, science, and reading.
- Trends in achievement for countries that have participated in previous cycles of TIMSS and PIRLS.

At eighth grade,

- International assessment in two curriculum areas crucial to global economic success in the 21st century—mathematics and science.
- Trends across five assessments dating back to 1995, depending on participation in previous cycles.
- For both grades, extensive contextual information about national, school, and classroom environments and practices that can be used to improve teaching and learning.

## *Improve policy and decision making about children's future education.*

Mathematics, science, and reading achievement data on the same cohort of primary-school children, accompanied by information from parents, schools, and teachers, can help countries:

- Determine global educational standing in subjects essential for further learning – reading, mathematics, and science
- Profile relative strengths and weaknesses in reading, mathematics, and science achievement in an international context
- Extend PIRLS and TIMSS trend lines to measure progress over time
- Inform national and local policy about schools' curricula and instruction
- Collect in-depth information about school environments and resources and instruction
- Examine concerns about equity in learning opportunities



**TIMSS & PIRLS**  
International Study Center  
Lynch School of Education, Boston College



BOSTON  
COLLEGE