

APPENDIX A

Acknowledgements

As an assessment of the achievement of students with advanced preparation in mathematics and physics at the end of secondary school, TIMSS Advanced is designed to complement the fourth and eighth grade mathematics and science assessments of TIMSS, the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study. TIMSS and TIMSS Advanced are undertakings of IEA, an international cooperative of national research institutions and government agencies that has been conducting studies of cross-national achievement since 1959. With more than 60 member countries, IEA has a Secretariat in Amsterdam and a large Data Processing and Research Center in Hamburg.

The TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center at Boston College, led by Executive Directors Ina V.S. Mullis and Michael O. Martin, is responsible for the direction and management of TIMSS, TIMSS Advanced, and PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study). To carry out these ambitious international studies, the TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center works closely with the IEA Secretariat in Amsterdam and the IEA Data Processing and Research Center in Hamburg. Also, Statistics Canada is responsible for school and sampling activities, and Educational Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey provides guidance on psychometric methodology. Of fundamental importance, the TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center relies on the National Research Coordinators designated by the participating countries to be responsible for the complex tasks involved in implementing the studies in their countries.

With each new assessment cycle of a study, one of the most important tasks is to update the assessment frameworks. Updating the TIMSS Advanced assessment frameworks for 2015 began in September of 2012, and has involved extensive input and reviews by individuals at the TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center, the IEA, the TIMSS Advanced 2015 National Research Coordinators, and the two TIMSS expert committees: the TIMSS 2015 Science and Mathematics Item Review Committee, and the TIMSS 2015 Questionnaire Item Review Committee. Of the many individuals around the world who help make TIMSS Advanced a success, the intention here is to specifically acknowledge some of those who had particular responsibility and involvement in developing and producing the *TIMSS Advanced 2015 Assessment Frameworks*.

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TIMSS 2015 Science and Mathematics Item Review Committee

The Science and Mathematics Item Review Committee (SMIRC), comprised of internationally recognized mathematics and science experts, reviewed and recommended updates for the TIMSS Advanced 2015 advanced mathematics and physics frameworks. The SMIRC also reviews the TIMSS Advanced 2015 items at key points in the development process.

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TIMSS 2015 Questionnaire Item Review Committee

The TIMSS 2015 Questionnaire Item Review Committee (QIRC) is comprised of National Research Coordinators from TIMSS and TIMSS Advanced 2015 who have special responsibility for providing guidance in updating the TIMSS Advanced 2015 Contextual Framework and the TIMSS Advanced 2015 Context Questionnaires.

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