

WILLIAM F. MCCOMAS

Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) is an international assessment measuring science and mathematics achievement of 4th and 8th grade students that can be compared to students in other countries. TIMSS has many of the same goals as does PISA (see also).

The TIMSS assessments began in 1995 and have been administered every four years with the next administration scheduled for 2015. In 2011, over 60 countries and other educational systems participated. TIMSS also administers a TIMSS Assessments that measures trends in advanced mathematics and physics among students during their last year of secondary school. The advance assessment was conducted in 1995 and 2008 and will be administered again in 2015.

Countries participate in and use TIMSS results “to explore educational issues, including: monitoring system-level achievement trends in global context, establishing achievement goals and standards for educational improvement, simulating curriculum reform, improving teaching and learning through research and analysis of data, conducting related studies ..., and training researchers and teachers in assessment and evaluation” (TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center, 2011, p. 1).

In 2011, 550,000 students from around the world participated on the TIMSS assessment including 20,000 students from across 1000 schools from the United States. The data from the various administrations of TIMSS are widely available with country-by-country comparisons discussed frequently in both the popular and education press. One very good source of information regarding TIMSS from the U.S. perspective may be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/Timss/>. (CB)

National Center for Education Statistics. (2013). Trends in international mathematics and science study (TIMSS). Institute of Education Sciences. Retrieved from <http://nces.ed.gov/Timss/>

TIMSS, & PIRLS International Study Center (2011). *About TIMSS and PIRLS*. Chestnut Hill, MA: Author. Retrieved from http://timssandpirls.bc.edu/home/pdf/TP_About.pdf