

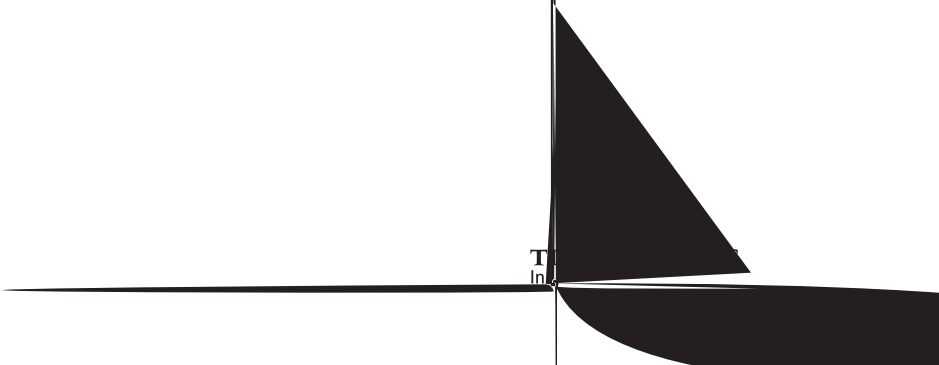
Chapter 11

Scaling the PIRLS 2006 Reading Assessment Data

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11.1 Overview

PIRLS 2006 had ambitious goals for broad coverage of the reading purposes and processes as described in its assessment framework¹ for measuring trends across assessment cycles. To achieve these goals, the PIRLS 2006 assessment consisted of 10 reading passages and items arranged into 40-minute assessment blocks, four of which were retained from the 2001 assessment in order to serve as the foundation for measuring trends. PIRLS used a matrix-sampling² design to assign assessment blocks to student booklets, two blocks per student booklet, so that a comprehensive picture of the reading achievement of fourth-grade students in participating countries could be assembled from the booklets



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€ Background variables with numerous response options (such as year of birth, or number of people who live in the home) were recoded using criterion scaling.¹ This was done by replacing each response option with the mean interim (EAP) score of the students choosing that option.

