

Chapter 7

Quality Assurance in the PIRLS 2006 Data Collection

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7.1 Overview

Quality assurance in large-scale international surveys such as PIRLS is extremely important for making valid comparisons of student achievement across many countries. In order to ensure the quality of the PIRLS data, considerable effort was made in developing standardized materials and survey operations procedures (for more information on survey operations procedures, please see Chapter 6.) In its commitment to high quality standards, the TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center developed an ambitious program to monitor and document data collection activities in participating countries. To implement this program, an international Quality Control Monitor (QCM) in each of the participating countries was selected by the IEA Secretariat in cooperation with the national center.

The TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center conducted an extensive, 2-day QCM training on observing PIRLS 2006 testing sessions and documenting test administration procedures in 15 classrooms. QCMs were introduced to the PIRLS 2006 survey operations procedures, including data collection in the schools. Each QCM received the necessary materials for completing their tasks, including a copy of PIRLS 2006 International Quality Control Monitor Manual, Classroom Observation Record, PIRLS 2006 Survey Operations Procedures Unit, School Coordinator Manual, and Test

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