

# **PIRLS** 2006

## *ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK AND SPECIFICATIONS*

Progress in International Reading Literacy Study

February 2006

**TIMSS & PIRLS**



International Association  
for the Evaluation of  
Educational Achievement





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# PREFACE

*Reading is fundamental* to all forms of personal learning and intellectual growth. In today's global society, a literate population is essential for a nation's social and economic development. To improve the quality of life for its people, a country needs to maximize the potential of its human, social, and material resources. Citizens that know how to read are crucial to this effort.

Concrete information about how well their students can read provides policymakers and researchers in every country with insight into how to improve literacy and reading achievement. To help improve reading teaching and learning around the world, the IEA General Assembly approved reading literacy as an essential component of the IEA's regular cycle of core studies, which also includes mathematics and science (known as TIMSS). With PIRLS 2006, IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) is in its second round of assessing reading achievement for students in their fourth year of school.

IEA, the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement, was founded in 1959 for the purpose of conducting comparative studies focusing on educational policies and practices in various countries around the world. In the 45 years since, IEA's membership has grown to more than 50 countries. It has a Secretariat located in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and a data processing center in Hamburg, Germany. IEA studies have reported on a wide range of topics and subject matters, each contributing to a deep understanding of educational processes within individual countries and within a broad international context.



## The TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center at Boston College

The TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center at Boston College serves as the International Study Center for IEA's studies in mathematics, science, and reading – the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) and the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS). The staff at the Study Center is responsible for the design and implementation of the study. The following had major responsibility for preparing the PIRLS framework for the 2006 assessment.

Ina V.S. Mullis  
Michael O. Martin  
Co-Directors, PIRLS  
  
Pierre Foy











