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Countries	Policy on Age of Entry to Primary School ¹	Practice on Age of Entry to Primary School	Policy on Promotion / Retention	Country's Name for Grade Tested	Years of Schooling ²	Average Age at Time of Testing
	Children must be 7 years old	6.5 to 7	Automatic	Grade 8	8	14.9
	Children must be 5 or 6 years old, depending on state or territory	5 or 6	Automatic	Year 8	8 or 9	13.9
	Children must be 6 years old	6	Automatic in grade 1, students in grades 2-8 must demonstrate a certain amount of academic progress	Second intermediate	8	14.1
	Children begin school during the calendar year in which they become 6 years old	6	Students must show progress, based on exam by teachers	Second grade of secondary education	8	14.1
	Children must be 6 years old by June	6 to 7	Students can be retained if found to be extremely deficient, after consultation with parents and teachers; students can repeat a maximum of 3 grades	Form 1	8	15.1
	Children must be 6 years old by the end of June to begin school the following September	7	Students must demonstrate basic knowledge and skills	Grade 8	8	14.9
	Children must be 6 years old in March or before	6	Automatic in grades 1-4, dependent on marks and approval in grades 5-8	Eighth grade of basic education	8	14.2
	Children must be 6 years old	6	Automatic	Junior high school, grade 2	8	14.2
	Children must be 5 years, 6 months old	5 years, 6 months to 6 years, 5 months	Automatic in grades 1-6, dependent on progress in grades 7-8	2nd grade - gymnasium	8	13.8
	Children must be 6 years old, space permitting (otherwise 7)	6 to 7	Students in grades 1-5 must pass an exam but if retained are automatically promoted the following year, students in grades 6-8 must pass an exam and are not automatically promoted the following year	Preparatory 3	8	14.4
	Children must begin school at the start of the term following their 5th birthday	5	Automatic	Year 9	9	14.3
	Children must be 7 years old by October 1	7	Students must have positive marks, and in grades 7-8 must also pass a school exam	Grade 8	8	15.2
	Children must be 6 years old	6 to 7	Students are retained with parental consent if fail to satisfy certain conditions such as adequate attendance	Junior secondary school II (JSS II)	8	15.5
	Children must be 6 years old	6	Determined by schools but retention rate cannot exceed 3%; in practice 99% of students are promoted	Secondary 2 (S2)	8	14.4
	Children must be 6 years old	6 or older	Automatic	Grade 8	8	14.5
	Children must be 6 years old	6	Based on student achievement, usually small number are retained	2nd grade of junior secondary school	8	14.5
	Children must be 6 years old	6	Students must pass a final examination	Third grade of guidance school	8	14.4
	Children must be 6 years old	6	Mostly automatic, but students diagnosed as having difficulties are transferred to remedial classes	Grade 8	8	14.0
	Children may begin school when 5 years old if their birth date is before April 30 of the academic year, otherwise 6	6	Students must demonstrate a certain amount of academic progress	Grade 8 (III media)	8	13.9
	Children must be 6 years old	6	Automatic	2nd grade at the lower secondary school	8	14.4
	Children must be 5 years, 8 months old	5 years, 8 months	Retention rate cannot exceed 5%	Grade 8	8	13.9
	Children must be 6 years old	6	Automatic	Middle school, 2nd grade	8	14.6
	Children must be 7 years old in the calendar year	7	Automatic	Grade 8	8	15.0

SOURCE: IEA's Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2003

1. A K... ISCED LK... UNESCO... ISCED-97).

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Countries	Policy on Age of Entry to Primary School ¹	Practice on Age of Entry to Primary School	Policy on Promotion / Retention	Country's Name for Grade Tested	Years of Schooling ²	Average Age at Time of Testing
	Children must be 6 or 7 years old	6 or 7	Dependent on final exams	Grade 8	8	14.6
	Children must be 6 or 7 years old, depending on child's development and parents' wishes	7 or older	Students must have sufficient marks (at least 4 on a scale of 1-10) in all subjects, and approval by the School Teachers' Board	Grade 8	8	14.9
	Children must be 7 years old by September 1	6.5 to 7	Automatic in grades 1-4; students in grades 5-8 must have marks of at least 3 (on a scale 1-5) in all subjects, but if do not finish grade 8 by age 17 are transferred to schools for adults	Grade 8	8	14.6
	Children must be 6 years old by January 1 of the academic year	6 or older	Automatic	Form 2	8	14.3
	Children must be 6 or 7 years old, parents decide	6 or 7	If students fail any subjects they are promoted with negative marks for those subjects, students with more than 5 negative marks are retained	Grade VIII	8	14.9
	Children must be 7 years old	7	Automatic except for students in grade 6 who must pass provincial exams	2° secondary	8	15.2
	Children must be 6 years old	6	Essentially automatic, but students can be retained if have serious learning difficulties or fall behind because of illness	Grade 8	8	14.3
	Children must attend primary school from their 6th birthday, but have the right to be enrolled from age 5	Almost all start on or near 5th birthday	Automatic	Year 9	8.5 - 9.5	14.1
	Children begin school the year they become 7 years old	7	Automatic	Grade 8 (these students started in Grade 2)	7	13.8
	Children must be 6 years old for governmental schools, 5.5 years old for special schools	6	Automatic in grades 1-4, students in grades 5-8 must have at least 50% passing marks in all subjects and if do not must pass exams in the relevant subjects	Grade 8	8	14.1
	Children must be 6 years old	6 to 7	Students must repeat and pass any subjects they failed before being promoted	Second year high school	8	14.8
	Children must be 7 years old	7	Students in grades 1-4 must receive a "satisfactory" grade in all subjects, students in grades 5-8 must receive grades of at least 5 (on a scale of 1-10) in all subjects	Grade 8	8	15.0
	For 4-year primary schools, children must be 6 years old by September 1 but require special medical confirmation; for 3-year primary schools, children must be 7 years old by September 1 but parents have a right to keep children at home until age 8	6 or 7	Automatic	Eighth grade	7 or 8	14.2
	Children must be 6 years old	6	Students must achieve a satisfactory level in all subjects	Second year of middle school	8	14.1
	Children can begin school between the ages of 4.5 and 6; those with a March-August birth date automatically begin school in September following their 5th birthday; parents of children with a September-December birth date can defer school entry until the following year (most choose not to defer)	4.5 to 5.5	Automatic	Secondary 2 (S2)	9	13.7
	Children begin school during the calendar year in which they turn 7, but may enter school earlier with parental consent if mature enough and ready for school	7	Students must have marks of at least 2 (on a scale 1-5) in all subjects	8th grade of primary school	8	14.9
	Children must be 6 years old	6	Automatic in grades 1-5, students in grade 6 must satisfy basic requirements on national exam to be promoted to grade 7	Secondary 2	8	14.3

1. A list of countries is provided in the table. ISCED levels are based on UNESCO criteria (ISCED-97).

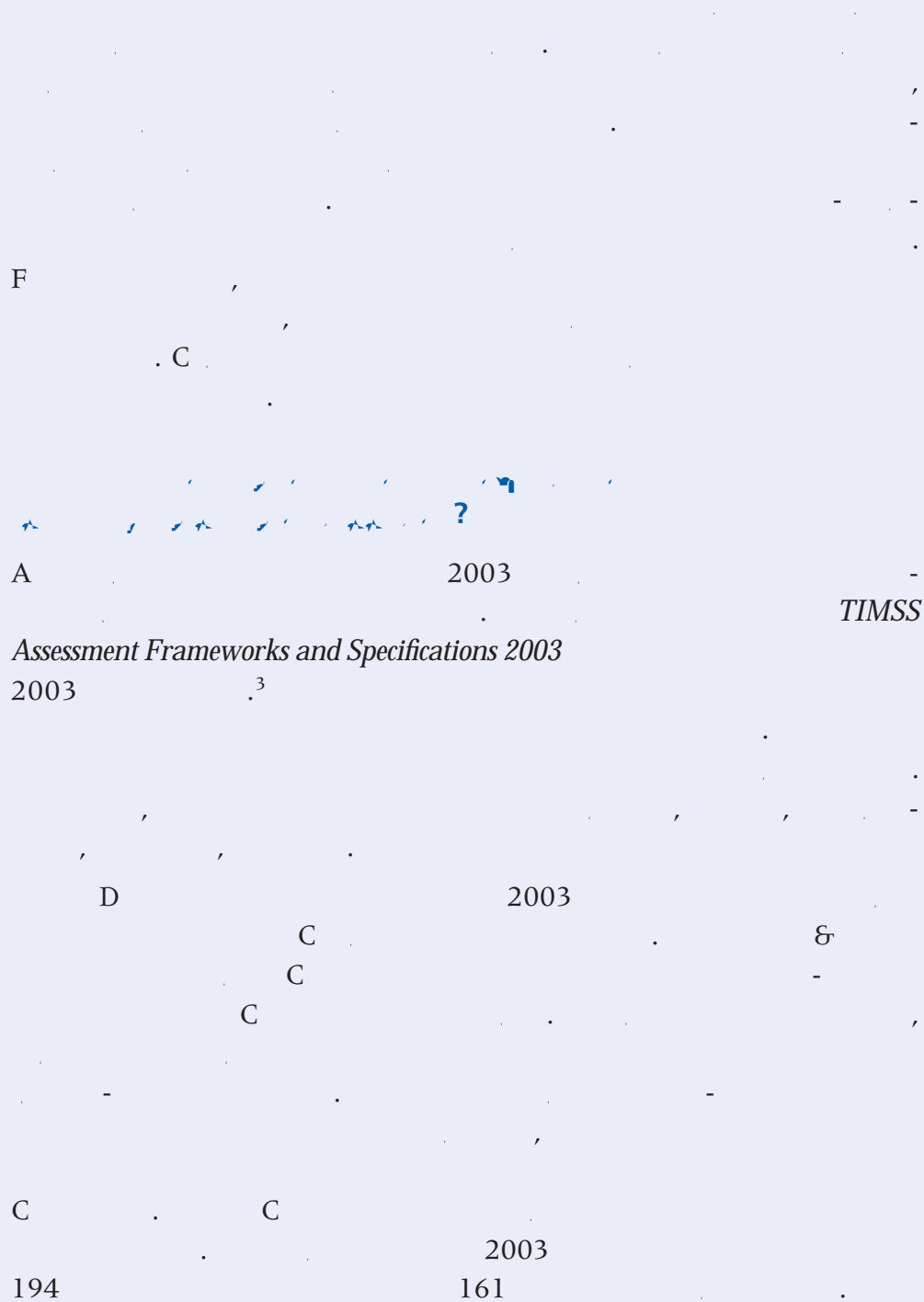
2. Years of schooling are based on ISCED level 1.

Countries	Policy on Age of Entry to Primary School ¹	Practice on Age of Entry to Primary School	Policy on Promotion / Retention	Country's Name for Grade Tested	Years of Schooling ²	Average Age at Time of Testing
	Children can begin school between the ages of 4.5 and 6; those with a March-August birth date automatically begin school in September following their 5th birthday; parents of children with a September-December birth date can defer school entry until the following year (most choose not to defer)	4.5 to 5.5	Automatic	Primary 5 (P5)	5	9.7
	Children must be 6 years old	6	Automatic	Primary 4	4	10.3
	For 8-year elementary schools, children must be 7 years old in the calendar year; for 9-year elementary schools, children must be 6 years old in the calendar year	5.5 or 6.5	Automatic	Grade 3 of 8-year elementary school; Grade 4 of 9-year elementary school	3 or 4	9.8
	Children must be 6 years old	5.5 to 6	Students must demonstrate a certain amount of academic progress	4th year of basic school	4	10.4
	Varies by state; 6 or 7, depending on birth date	6 or 7	Automatic	Grade 4	4	10.2
	Children must be 6 years old	6 or older	Automatic	Grade 4	4	10.9
					4	10.3
Benchmarking Participants						
	No official state policy	6 to 7	Promotion/retention decisions are made by individual schools	Grade 4	4	11.0
	Children must be 6 years old by December 31	6	Automatic	Grade 4	4	9.8
	Children must be 7 years old by October 1	6	Automatic	Second year of the second cycle	4	10.1

SOURCE: IEA's Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2003

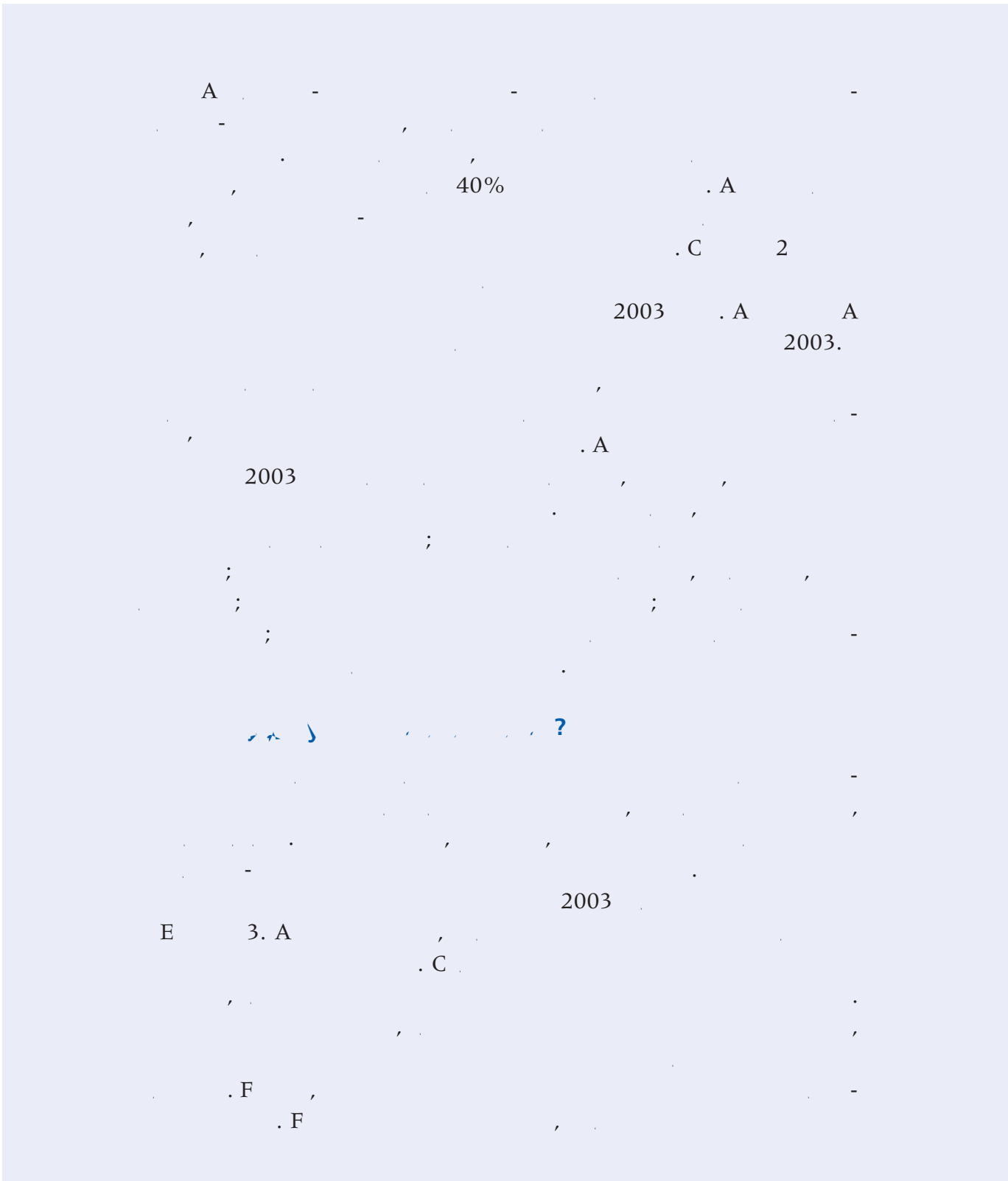
1. A country's policy on the age of entry to primary school is defined as the age in years that a child must be at the start of the school year to be eligible for enrollment in primary school. For countries where the policy varies by region, the policy for the region where the test was administered is used. For countries where the policy varies by birth date, the policy for the majority of the population is used. For countries where the policy varies by both region and birth date, the policy for the majority of the population in the region where the test was administered is used. For countries where the policy varies by both region and birth date, the policy for the majority of the population in the region where the test was administered is used. For countries where the policy varies by both region and birth date, the policy for the majority of the population in the region where the test was administered is used.

2. Years of schooling is defined as the number of years of full-time schooling that a child would be expected to complete in a country, based on the country's educational system. For countries where the system is not fully defined, the number of years of schooling is based on the country's educational system as of 1997.



3 Mullis, I.V.S., Martin, M.O., Smith, T.A., Garden, R.A., Gregory, K.D., Gonzalez, E.J., Chrostowski, S.J., and O'Connor, K.M. (2003), *TIMSS Assessment Frameworks and Specifications 2003 (2nd Edition)*, Chestnut Hill, MA: Boston College.

The TIMSS frameworks developed 1995 also were used for 1999. See, Robitaille, D.F., McKnight, C.C., Schmidt, W.H., Britton, E.D., Raisen, S.A., and Nicol, C. (1993), *TIMSS Monograph No. 1: Curriculum Frameworks for Mathematics and Science*, Vancouver, BC: Pacific Educational Press.



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MATHEMATICS Grades 4 & 8

	36.5	2780	74	16	4220
	3.1	30	75	30	790
	19.7	7741	79	6	19530
12	0.7	1	74	18	10500
10	9.8	31	79	5	22940
	1.7	582	38	80	3010
	8.0	111	72	14	1770
	15.6	757	76	10	4250
9	23.0	36	76	5	11627
12	0.8	9	77	7	12320
	66.4	1001	69	33	1470
11	59.2	243	77	5	25510
	1.4	45	71	10	4190
	20.3	239	55	60	270
	6.8	1	80	-	24690
	10.2	93	72	8	5290
	211.7	1905	67	32	710
	65.5	1648	69	34	1720
	6.6	21	79	6	16020
	57.7	301	78	4	19080
	127.2	378	82	3	34010
	5.2	89	72	27	1760
	47.6	9006	9006	700100105124.91881.086	

SOURCE: IEA's Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2003

