

Appendix C

Population Coverage and Sample Participation Rates

Appendix C.1: Information about the Students Assessed in TIMSS 2011

Country	Grade 4		Grade 8		Information About Age of Entry, Promotion, and Retention
	Country's Name for Fourth Year of Formal Schooling*	Average Age of TimSS of TFsting	Country's Name for Eighth Year of Formal Schooling*	Average Age of TimSS of TFsting	
Armenia	Grade 4	10.0	Grade 8	14.6	Children begin school the following December 31st. Entry policy is changed within the past 10 years. Mandatory for Grades 1–5, but dependent on academic grades 6–8.
Australia	Y	10.0	Y	14.0	Varies by state but children must begin school by age 6. Most children actually begin school at the minimum age of 4.5–5, and the age of entry policy is based on policy on retention varies by state. Mandatory for Grades 1–8.
Austria	Grade 4	10.3			Children begin following their 6th birthday can receive admission for compulsory Grade 1 without retention in Grades 2–4 for students failing one or more compulsory subjects
Azerbaijan	Grade 4	10.2			Children must begin school on September 15 of the year but children of ethnic minorities who are identified as talented can begin school in September of the year. Mandatory for Grades 1–4, but is dependent on academic grades 5–8.
Bahrain	Grade 5	10.4	3rd Grade	14.4	Parents must enroll their child in school when they are 6 years old. Entry policy has changed within the past 10 years upon passing Arabic. Mandatory for
Belgium (F)	Grade 4	10.0			Children must be 7 years old to attend school and/or parents must not attend primary education must pass a language qualification test to begin primary school
Chile	Grade 4	10.1	Grade 8	14.2	Compulsory schooling begins at age 6. Children must begin in March of the year. Mandatory on academic grades
Chinese	Grade 4	10.2	Grade 8	14.2	Children must begin school in September of the year. Entry policy has changed within the past 10 years. Mandatory for Grades 1–8.

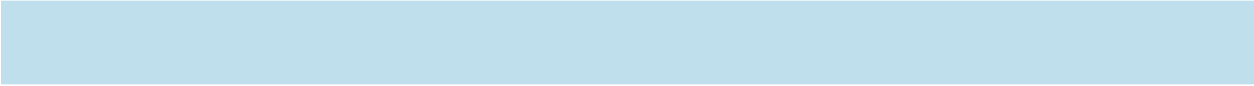
Appendix C.1: Information about the Students Assessed in TIMSS 2011 (Continued)

Country	Grade 4		Grade 8		Information About Age of Entry, Promotion, and Retention
	Country's Name for Fourth Year of Formal Schooling*	Average Age at Time of Testing	Country's Name for Eighth Year of Formal Schooling*	Average Age at Time of Testing	
Morocco	Grade 4	10.5	Grade 8	14.7	Children must be at least 5 years, 6 months old by the beginning of September to begin school, and parents rarely postpone the start. Promotion depends on academic progress for both primary and secondary grades.
Netherlands	Group 6	10.2			Children must begin kindergarten on the first school day of the month after their 5th birthday. Most children begin kindergarten when they turn 4 and primary education at age 6, although some children begin primary education a year later at age 7. Promotion and retention are decided by the school, dependent on academic progress.
New Zealand	Year 5	9.9	Year 9	14.1	Children must be enrolled in school by their 6th birthday but have the right to begin school at age 5, and nearly all children begin school on or soon after their 5th birthday. There is automatic promotion, with retention only in very special circumstances with school and parental input.
Northern Ireland	Year 6	10.4			Children must be 4 years old by July 1st to begin school in September. The majority of children start and continue with their age group, but some transfer to post-primary a year late or early.
Norway	Grade 4 (4. trinn)	9.7	Grade 8 (8. trinn)	13.7	Children must begin school the calendar year of their 6th birthday. There is automatic promotion for all grades.
Oman	Grade 4	9.9	Grade 8	14.1	Children begin school the year of their 6th birthday. Children must be at least 5 years, 9 months old at the start of the academic year (beginning of September), but parents can enroll their children in private schools where the official entry age is 5 years, 5 months. The age of entry policy has been revised within the past ten years. Promotion is automatic for Grades 1–4 and dependent on academic progress for Grades 5–8.
Palestinian Nat'l Auth.			Grade 8	13.9	Children must be 5 years, 9 months old by the beginning of the September in which they enroll. Parents can enroll children in private schools two months earlier than public schools. Promotion is automatic for Grades 1–3 and dependent on academic progress for Grades 4–8. A maximum of 5% of students in each class may be retained.
Poland	Grade 3	9.9			Children must begin school the calendar year of their 7th birthday, but parents can postpone the beginning of school for medical or psychological reasons. The age of entry policy has been revised within the past ten years. Parental consent is required for retention in Grades 1–6, and promotion is dependent upon academic progress in higher grades.
Portugal	Grade 4	10.4	Grade 8	14.1	Children must begin school the year of their 6th birthday if they turn 6 by September 1st. If they turn 6 in the 1st or 2nd semester, they must begin school in the 2nd or 3rd semester, respectively. Promotion is automatic for all grades.

Appendix C.1: Information about the Students Assessed in TIMSS 2011 (Continued)

Country	Grade 4		Grade 8		Information About Age of Entry, Promotion, and Retention
	Country's Name for Fourth Year of Formal Schooling*	Average Age at Time of Testing	Country's Name for Eighth Year of Formal Schooling*	Average Age at Time of Testing	
Spain	Primary Education Year 4	9.8			Children must begin school the calendar year of their 6th birthday. Almost every child begins kindergarten at the age of 3 even though it is not compulsory. Students can be retained for 1 year during Grades 1–6, but students with special needs can be retained twice. Students that don't reach the goals in Grades 7 and 8 can be retained in both grades.
Sweden	Grade 4	10.7	Grade 8	14.8	Children begin school in the fall of the calendar year of their 7th birthday but can begin the year they turn 6 or 8 years old for special reasons. There is automatic promotion for all grades.
Syrian Arab Republic			Grade 8	13.9	Children must begin school the September following their 6th birthday. Promotion for Grades 1–8 is based on academic progress, but promotion is automatic when a student fails a grade for the second time.
Thailand	Primary 4	10.5	Middle School 2	14.3	Children must begin school by the year of their 7th birthday, but can begin at the age of 6. There is no policy for promotion and retention.
Tunisia	Year 4 of Primary Education	10.0	Year 8 of Basic Education	14.3	Children begin school in the September of the calendar year of their 6th birthday. Younger children are accepted if there are school vacancies in the area where they live. Promotion is dependent on academic progress in Arabic, French, mathematics, and science for Grades 1–6, and dependent on academic progress for Grades 7–8.
Turkey	Grade 4	10.1	Grade 8	14.0	Children begin school in September of the calendar year of their 6th birthday, although they can begin a year later, at parental discretion. Promotion is automatic for Grades 1–3 and dependent on academic progress for Grades 4–8.
Ukraine			Grade 8	14.2	Compulsory schooling begins at age 6. Children must be at least 6 years old by September 1st to begin school, and parents can decide if children begin school at age 6 or 7. Retention is decided by parents, and students can take external examinations to advance into higher grade levels.
United Arab Emirates	Grade 4	9.8	Grade 8	13.9	Children can begin school when they are 5.5 years old. Parents or guardians can decide when children begin school, but it must be by age 8. The age of entry policy has been revised within the past ten years. Students in Grades 1–5 are subject to remedial instruction for promotion, and promotion in Grades 6–8 is dependent on academic achievement.
United States	Grade 4	10.2	Grade 8	14.2	Varies by state, but children commonly begin kindergarten at age 5 (by parental choice) and typically begin primary school at age 6 (by law).
Yemen	Grade 4	11.2			Children can begin school the year of their 6th birthday, but some flexibility exists at the discretion of the school's director. Promotion is automatic for Grades 1–3 and dependent on academic progress for Grades 4–8.



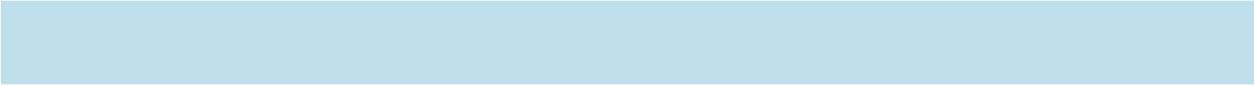


Appendix C.2: Coverage of TIMSS 2011 Target Population (Continued)

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Country	International Target Population		Exclusions from National Target Population		
	Coverage	Notes on Coverage	School-level Exclusions	Within-sample Exclusions	Overall Exclusions
Sixth Grade Participants					
Botswana	100%		0.1%	0.2%	0.3%
Honduras	100%		3.8%	0.7%	4.5%
Yemen	100%		3.3%	0.7%	4.0%
Benchmarking Participants					
² Alberta, Canada	100%		1.5%	6.1%	7.5%
Ontario, Canada	100%		1.0%	4.3%	5.3%
Quebec, Canada	100%		2.7%	1.0%	3.7%
Abu Dhabi, UAE	100%		1.4%	1.3%	2.7%
Dubai, UAE	100%		0.4%	4.8%	5.1%
^{1 3} Florida, US	89%	Students in public schools	0.0%	12.1%	12.1%
^{1 2} North Carolina, US	93%	Students in public schools	0.0%	10.1%	10.1%

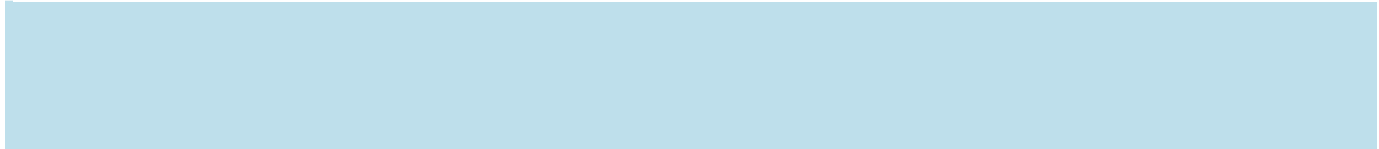
SOURCE: IEA's Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study – TIMSS 2011



Appendix C.3:

Country	International Target Population		Exclusions from National Target Population		
	Coverage	Notes on Coverage	School-level Exclusions	Within-sample Exclusions	Overall Exclusions
Ninth Grade Participants					
Botswana	100%		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2 Honduras	100%		3.0%	2.7%	5.6%
South Africa	100%		1.4%	0.0%	1.4%
Benchmarking Participants					
2 Alberta, Canada	100%		1.5%	5.9%	7.4%
2 Ontario, Canada	100%		0.8%	4.8%	5.6%
Quebec, Canada	100%		2.0%	3.0%	4.9%
Abu Dhabi, UAE	100%		1.1%	0.6%	1.7%
Dubai, UAE	100%		0.2%	3.8%	4.0%
1 Alabama, US	92%	Students in public schools	0.0%	4.6%	4.6%
1 2 California, US	91%	Students in public schools	0.0%	5.6%	5.6%
1 Colorado, US	94%	Students in public schools	0.0%	4.1%	4.1%
1 2 Connecticut, US	90%	Students in public schools	0.0%	8.5%	8.5%
1 2 Florida, US	89%	Students in public schools	0.0%	6.9%	6.9%
1 2 Indiana, US	90%	Students in public schools	0.0%	6.3%	6.3%
1 2 Massachusetts, US	89%	Students in public schools	0.0%	7.9%	7.9%
1 Minnesota, US	90%	Students in public schools	0.0%	4.3%	4.3%
1 3 North Carolina, US	93%	Students in public schools	0.0%	11.4%	11.4%





Appendix C.7: Student Sample Sizes (Continued)

Country	Within-school Student Participation (Weighted Percentage)	Number of Sampled Students in Participating Schools	Number of Students Withdrawn from Class/School	Number of Students Excluded	Number of Eligible Students	Number of Students Absent	Number of Students Assessed
Ninth Grade Participants							
Botswana	98%	5,610	94	0	5,516	116	5,400
Honduras	96%	4,975	339	0	4,636	218	4,418
South Africa	95%	13,179	455	0	12,724	755	11,969
Benchmarking Participants							
Alberta, Canada	93%	5,579	96	294	5,189	390	4,799
Ontario, Canada	95%	5,198	31	143	5,024	268	4,756
Quebec, Canada	93%	6,879	91	75	6,713	564	6,149
Abu Dhabi, UAE	97%	4,513	11	4	4,498	125	4,373
Dubai, UAE	96%	5,915	57	36	5,822	251	5,571
Alabama, US	92%	2,414	27	87	2,300	187	2,113
California, US	94%	2,898	52	47	2,799	185	2,614
Colorado, US	94%	2,395	60	47	2,288	121	2,167
Connecticut, US	94%	2,356	16	115	2,225	126	2,099
Florida, US	91%	1,986	25	87	1,874	162	1,712
Indiana, US	96%	2,501	49	97	2,355	95	2,260
Massachusetts, US	96%	2,296	20	112	2,164	89	2,075
Minnesota, US	95%	2,720	32	61	2,627	127	2,500
North Carolina, US	95%	2,434	24	203	2,207	104	2,103

SOURCE: IEAs Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study – TIMSS 2011



