

DATA PROTECTION DECLARATION
PIRLS 2026 STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Field test was administered in 2025 and the main data collection will take place in 2026.

Identity and Contact Details of Controllers

National PIRLS Center

Centre for Educational Research and Evaluation

Pedagogical Institute

40, Macedonias Avenue

2238, Latsia

Tel: 22402317

Website: <https://pirls.pi.ac.cy/pirls/index.php?id=prostasa-dedomnon>

Email: pirls@cyearn.pi.ac.cy

and

Stichting I.E.A. Secretariaat Nederland (hereinafter “IEA”)

Keizersgracht 311

1016 EE Amsterdam

The Netherlands

Telephone: +31 20 625 3625

Email: secretariat@iea.nl

The NRC and IEA have concluded a joint controller agreement, which regulates their respective roles and responsibilities in the processing of personal data.

Data Protection Officer

Ioli Ayiomamitou

Pedagogical Institute

40, Macedonias Avenue

2238, Latsia

Tel: 22402483

Email: ayiomamitou.i@cyearn.pi.ac.cy

IEA’s Data Protection Officer can be reached at: dataprotection@iea.nl

For which purposes are data collected and processed?

The data collected during the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) 2026 will be used exclusively for scientific research purposes. PIRLS is an educational research project sponsored by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA).

Which information is requested?

Students in the participating schools are invited to complete the PIRLS 2026 Student Questionnaire in order to provide the study with information about students’ gender, month and year of birth, home resources, their reading outside of school, the language(s) spoken at home, and their opinions

regarding the school environment and literacy lessons, as well as how often they feel happy, motivated, or sad at school.

- **Participation in PIRLS is mandatory.**
- Consent for collecting **and processing the data is declared by filling in and returning the completed questionnaire.** Contact details of the person in charge of queries regarding data protection issues:

Yiasemina Karagiorgi
Centre of Educational Research and Evaluation, Pedagogical Institute
40 Macedonias Avenue, 2238, Latsia
Tel.: 22402317
Email: karagiorgi.y@cyearn.pi.ac.cy

What kinds of data are collected?

Data from the answers to the questions from a student who participates in PIRLS 2026 are collected and stored. This is in the form of numbers representing selections (e.g., a multiple-choice question or yes/no selection). As this survey is administered electronically, there is further logging information stored regarding the first and latest log-in time, clicks on navigation buttons, and whether or not the questionnaire has been submitted. In addition, the following log data is captured: all navigation events; each click on a checkbox/radio button; each selection in a drop-down; focus (putting the cursor into the box) and blur (putting the cursor outside the box).

This information cannot, in and of itself, be used to identify individual respondents by name; however, a student ID is recorded to uniquely identify each student. The relationship between this ID and the student's name or national registration number is known to the school coordinator, and (depending on your country's data protection policy) may be known to the national research center conducting the study. It is not, however, shared with IEA or any other third parties.

Where, how, and for how long are data from PIRLS 2026 stored?

PIRLS 2026 data are stored securely in a pseudonymous form, that is, processed in such a manner that the personal data can no longer be attributed to a specific data subject without the use of additional information (any such additional information being kept separately and subject to technical and organizational measures to ensure that the personal data are not attributed to an identified or identifiable natural person). These data cannot be accessed by any external persons or systems. Moreover, any IEA employees who access the data for processing have been suitably briefed on what constitutes an acceptable treatment of data and have signed a confidentiality agreement.

The data are stored as follows:

Response data are stored indefinitely so that they remain available for analyses. These responses eventually result in a database that allows researchers to compare education systems worldwide (see public accessibility below).

Digital response data are collected and stored at two locations.

- 1) Student achievement data (RM Education Limited) is collected and stored (including backups) on AWS servers in Europe.
- 2) Questionnaire data (IEA) are collected and stored (including backups) on Microsoft Azure servers in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

The IEA SharePoint server where WinW3S data and data from paper instruments is uploaded by countries is hosted by Microsoft within the European Union.

All data arriving for data processing are submitted without names—only the student ID numbers are shared with IEA.

With whom and how are data from PIRLS 2026 shared?

PIRLS 2026 is directed by the international study center (ISC) based at Boston College, USA, and most of the data analyses occur there. Response data are required for the analysis but are sent to the ISC, via a secure SharePoint server, in a pseudonymous form. ISC employees who access the data for analyses have signed a confidentiality agreement and have received comprehensive training on data protection and privacy.

IEA has performed the required data transfer impact assessment for the transfer of personal data outside of the European Economic Area. The IEA relies on European Commission Standard Contractual Clauses (Module II: Controller-to-Processor transfers) in transferring the pseudonymized personal data to the USA. IEA has also concluded a data processing agreement with the ISC in Boston College.

The data are also reshared, again over secure SharePoint server, with the national research centers running PIRLS 2026 in your country.

Related Data

Along with the students, teachers and principals are also asked to complete a questionnaire. Students' parents or legal guardians are also asked to complete a PIRLS 2026 Early Learning Survey. Information coming from these sources is linked to that from students in the final international research database (IDB).

Public Accessibility

The final IDB will be accessible to the public from the following sites:

<https://www.iea.nl/index.php/data-tools/repository> (Hamburg, Germany)

<https://timssandpirls.bc.edu/index.html> (Boston, USA)

All data in the database are pseudonymous and, as such, cannot be linked to individuals without the use of additional information, which is kept separately, and its security is ensured by using appropriate technical and organizational measures.

Automated Decision-Making and Profiling

No automated decision-making, including profiling, referred to in Article 22 GDPR is conducted.

Rights of Data Subjects

The GDPR grants the following rights to you as a data subject:

- Right to withdraw consent, if processing is based on consent—Article 7 GDPR
- Right to information—Articles 13 and 14 GDPR
- Right of Access—Article 15 GDPR
- Right to Rectification—Article 16 GDPR
- Right to Erasure—Article 17 GDPR

- Right to Restriction of Processing—Article 18 GDPR
- Right to Data Portability—Article 20 GDPR
- Right to Object—Article 21 GDPR
- The right not to be subjected to decisions only based on automated decision making of profiling—Article 22 GDPR
- Right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority—Article 77 GDPR

Data Subjects have the right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority:

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