

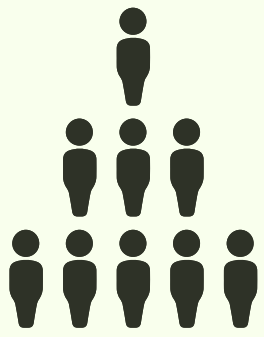
Progress in International Literacy Study (PIRLS): The Basics

What is it?



PIRLS is an international assessment designed to measure reading achievement at the fourth-grade level. It is based on a framework that covers major reading purposes: for literary experience, to acquire and use information, and to search for information online. By participating in PIRLS, the U.S. is able to study how our policies impact outcomes and to compare the reading achievement of our fourth-graders to their peers in over 40 countries.

When is it administered?



PIRLS assessments are administered every 5 years, most recently in 2016. The next cycle, slated for 2021 but postponed for the time being, will be administered in a redesigned digital format (digitalPIRLS). Only a sample of schools and students are selected to participate in PIRLS assessments, and results are representative of the nation as a whole, not of individuals, schools or states.

How is it designed?



digitalPIRLS is conducted on a tablet with a keyboard and takes most students approximately 2 hours to complete. It is followed by a brief questionnaire, administered on the same computer. The display simulates an online environment and the assessment is designed to help us understand how prepared fourth graders are to read and interpret online information.

Where can I learn more?



To learn more about Maine-specific PIRLS information, accommodations and more, please click [here](#). General PIRLS information is available [here](#). Please visit this [page](#) for an updated assessment calendar. For other inquiries, please contact NAEP & International Assessment Coordinator Regina Lewis, Ph.D at regina.lewis@maine.gov.

Still have questions?

Please contact Interim Director of Assessment Janette Kirk at janette.kirk@maine.gov for general inquiries.