

# Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS): The Basics

## What is it?



TIMSS provides reliable and timely data on the mathematics and science achievement of U.S. students in grades 4, 8 and in the final year of high school compared to that of students in other countries and jurisdictions. Results from these assessments are used by researchers and policymakers to inform national discussions about international competitiveness.

## When is it administered?



TIMSS assessments are administered every 4 years, most recently in 2019. Only a sample of schools and students in grades 4, 8 and the final year of high school are selected to participate, so eligibility varies. Results are reported nationally and are representative of the U.S. as a whole, not of individuals, schools or states.

## How is it designed?



The electronic version of TIMSS (eTIMSS) is now the assessment's primary format and is comparable to previous paper versions. Students in grades 4 and 8 take general TIMSS assessments while students in the final year of high school take Advanced TIMSS, which measures advanced mathematics and physics achievement.

## Where can I learn more?



To learn more about Maine-specific TIMSS information, accommodations and more, please click [here](#). General TIMSS 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](mailto:regina.lewis@maine.gov).

Still have questions?

Please contact Interim Director of Assessment Janette Kirk at [janette.kirk@maine.gov](mailto:janette.kirk@maine.gov) for general inquiries.