

SCHOOL LETTERHEAD

Dear Parent or Guardian,

This letter is to inform you about an important international study of student learning being conducted in our school this spring. The Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) provides important information for benchmarking student performance in reading in the United States against countries around the world. Since 2001, PIRLS has measured worldwide trends in student reading skills at grade 4. The next PIRLS assessment will be in the spring of 2016.

Our school has accepted an invitation from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), part of the U.S. Department of Education, to participate in PIRLS. {Insert number} of our 4th grade classes will take part. {This/One of these} is your child's class. The enclosed summary sheet provides some background information about PIRLS, explains what is involved for each student selected to participate in the study, and gives a contact phone number and email address where you can find answers to any questions you might have.

To have an accurate picture of what U.S. 4th graders can do in reading, it is important that each student selected take part in the study. In addition to answering reading questions, students will be asked to complete a brief questionnaire about themselves. For the first time PIRLS will also include an innovative assessment of online reading called ePIRLS. I urge you to support this effort by encouraging your child to take part; however, participation in this study is entirely voluntary. Previous experience suggests that students actually enjoy taking part, and participating students will receive a small gift, which we think they will like.

All of the information collected is safeguarded, as required by law. NCES is authorized to conduct this study under the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA, 2002; 20 U.S.C. § 9543). Under that law, the data provided by schools, staff, and students may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law (20 U.S.C., § 9573). Students and schools are never identified in any reports. All reported statistics refer to the United States as a whole.

If you have any objection to your child joining in the PIRLS activities, please let us know by completing the attached consent form and returning it to the school.

For more information, please visit the study website at <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/pirls/>. You may also call the study hotline at (866) 800-9176 or send email to [pirls@rti.org](mailto:pirls@rti.org). Thank you for taking the time to learn about this important study.

Sincerely,

[School Official]

Enclosures:

Facts for Parents about the PIRLS 2016 Main Study  
Parent/Guardian Consent Form

**Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS)**

**Parent/Guardian Consent Form**

Your child has been asked to participate in an international study of student learning called the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS). Each student who participates will receive a small gift.

The student assessment will be administered by a team of researchers from RTI International, on behalf of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

**If you grant permission for your child to participate in PIRLS, you do not need to return this form.**

**If you do not consent to your child's participation in PIRLS, please return this form to your child's school as soon as possible.**

**I do not grant permission** for my child, \_\_\_\_\_, to participate in the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of parent or guardian)

Date of signature: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT:

**Student name:** \_\_\_\_\_

School name: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_