



International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement

IEA, an independent, international cooperative of national research institutions and governmental research agencies, conducts large-scale comparative studies of educational achievement, with the aim of gaining in-depth understanding of the effects of policies and practices within and across systems of education. Since its inception in 1958, IEA has conducted more than 30 research studies of cross-national achievement. IEA studies focus on subjects of particular interest to IEA members. These include, among others, mathematics, science, reading, civic and citizenship education, computer and information literacy, and teacher education.

IEA studies are an important data source for those working to enhance students' learning at international, national, and local levels. By reporting on a wide range of topics and subject matters, the studies contribute to a deep understanding of educational processes within individual countries and across a broad international context. The cycle of studies enables countries to measure progress in educational achievement, monitor changes in the implementation of educational policy, and identify new issues relevant to reform efforts.

IEA studies consider the process and the products of education. They approach educational reality with all its complexity, collecting—in addition to achievement data—information from schools, teachers, students, and policy-makers about the context within which teaching and learning occur. Studies also seek to use innovative approaches to assess students' knowledge and understanding. State-of-the-art methods ensure high standards of data quality, including efficient sampling procedures and sophisticated techniques for scaling student achievement.

IEA studies are cooperative ventures. Each study has an international coordinating center, responsible for carrying out all international aspects of the study. International advisory committees provide guidance to ensure that policy, research, educational, and subject-specific interests are well served in the various studies. Each country participating in a study designates a national center to conduct study activities and appoints a national research coordinator charged with completing the tasks involved. The IEA Data Processing and Research Center in Hamburg, Germany, assists international study centers with data processing. It also, through consultation and training, helps national centers conduct research activities that use IEA data.

With representatives from almost 70 member country institutions, more than 30 other countries participating in its projects, international study centers located on four continents, and joint projects with other international organizations, IEA has, over the past 50 years, built a strong global network of scholars, researchers, policy analysts, and technical experts in the field of large-scale educational research.

Every two years, IEA organizes a conference of researchers working with IEA data to share knowledge, experiences, and findings from IEA studies. IEA also offers two annual awards to recognize high-quality empirical research that uses IEA data—the Bruce H. Choppin Award, offered to the author of a Master's or a doctoral thesis, and the Richard M. Wolf Memorial Award, given to the author or authors of a paper published in a refereed journal, monograph, or book that includes analysis of data from one or more IEA studies.

The IEA Secretariat is located in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. For more information, visit the IEA website: www.iea.nl.