

# PISA 2018

## WHAT IS PISA?

- ◆ The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is one of the international assessments in Australia's National Assessment Program.
- ◆ PISA was first administered in 2000, and is conducted every three years. PISA 2018 is the seventh PISA assessment that will be conducted.
- ◆ PISA measures how well 15-year-olds are prepared to use the skills and knowledge in particular areas to meet real-life challenges.
- ◆ PISA is conducted every three years and provides data for key performance measures specified in the Measurement Framework for Schooling in Australia.
- ◆ PISA results are used to evaluate progress towards the Educational Goals for Young Australians and the National Education Agreement outcome that Australian students excel by international standards.
- ◆ PISA 2018 will involve more than half-a-million students (representing about 29 million 15-year-old students) from around 80 countries and economies.
- ◆ PISA is managed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Education and Training and the State and Territory Departments of Education.

**For more information about preparing your school and students for PISA, contact the PISA Project Team at ACER:**

**PISA email:** [ozpisa@acer.org](mailto:ozpisa@acer.org)

**PISA information line:** 1800 280 625

For more information about PISA, visit: [www.acer.org/ozpisa](http://www.acer.org/ozpisa)

## PISA in your school

PISA will be administered to a sample of 15-year-old students in your school between 30 July and 7 September 2018. This information sheet will provide you with details about what PISA means in your school.

Under the Australian Education Act 2013 and the Australian Education Regulations 2013, all sampled schools are required to participate in PISA.

### What is involved?

Students will spend around 3¼ hours completing a computer-based assessment, including answering questions in one or more of the assessment domains (reading, mathematics, science, global competence and financial literacy), and answering questions about their home background, aspects of students' lives, such as their attitudes and motivation towards learning, availability and use of ICT and their preparation for their future career. The assessment time also includes administration time and breaks.

The principal (or designate) at each school will also be asked to complete an online questionnaire which collects descriptive information about the school, decision-making processes, instructional practices and school and classroom climate.

### How many students will be assessed?

Approximately 800 Australian secondary schools have been sampled to participate in PISA 2018. Within each school, the number of students sampled will be dependent on the location of the schools. For the states, thirty 15-year-old students within each school will be randomly selected to participate in PISA. In the territories, the number of students selected at random within each school will be higher, with 36 students in the Australian Capital Territory and 48 students in the Northern Territory.

### Which students will be assessed?

All students enrolled in your school and born between 1 May 2002 and 30 April 2003 will be eligible to participate in PISA. The majority of students will be 15-year-olds (some students will be 16-years-old), and may be enrolled in Years 7 to 12. PISA is an inclusive assessment and encourages all sampled students to participate.

### How will PISA be administered?

ACER will organise for a Test Administrator to administer PISA in schools. Test Administrators are employed and trained by ACER, especially for this purpose, and their role is to administer and monitor the assessment sessions only and not to discipline or correct inappropriate student behaviour.

On the day of the assessment(s), a Test Administrator will come to the school and bring the PISA software on USB drives, for the assessment to be completed on school computers.

In the event there are a number of sampled students absent on the day of the assessment, the Test Administrator will need to organise a follow-up assessment session, and will return to the school on another day.

## What PISA will mean for school staff?

The **principal** will be responsible for:

- ◆ Nominating two school staff members to serve as school coordinator and IT coordinator.
- ◆ Supporting the school coordinator and IT coordinator to plan for the assessment.
- ◆ Supporting PISA in the school by ensuring there is a plan with school staff to achieve high student participation in the assessment.
- ◆ Providing a school staff member to be present during the assessment (duty of care).
- ◆ Completing the school questionnaire.

The **school coordinator** will be responsible for:

- ◆ Providing preferred dates for PISA to be administered in the school.
- ◆ Including the assessment date(s) for PISA on the school calendar.
- ◆ Booking the computer room for the duration of the assessment.
- ◆ Providing a list of age-eligible students.
- ◆ Informing school staff, students and parents about PISA and why student participation is important.
- ◆ Reviewing and updating the list of sampled students.
- ◆ Ensuring the sampled students attend and participate in PISA.

The **IT coordinator** will be responsible for:

- ◆ Providing detailed information about the schools' computer resources.
- ◆ Testing the compatibility of school computers to run the PISA software.
- ◆ Enabling the PISA software to run on computers.
- ◆ Providing technical assistance (If required) on the day of the assessment.
- ◆ Providing the Test Administrator with access to a school computer after the assessment.

The school coordinator and IT coordinator will be provided with detailed information about their responsibilities to assist in the planning and preparation for PISA to be conducted in their school.

## What will schools and students receive?

Schools receive a small payment towards expenses involved in the organisation and tasks required for PISA. Schools are free to choose how this payment is used. The payment will be made once all aspects of PISA have been completed. Schools also receive a certificate of participation and may receive a school-level report.

Principals from participating schools will receive a confidential PISA School Report about the performance of their individual students.

Students will receive a certificate of participation and a small gift, and the school coordinator and IT coordinator receive a small gift in appreciation of their assistance.

## What happens with student and school PISA data?

All information published by ACER regarding PISA in the public domain is de-identified and aggregated – there is no identification of students and the participating schools.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) publishes an international report, and releases a database for each PISA cycle. Products can be accessed at: <http://www.oecd.org/pisa/publications/>.

A national report is published by ACER, describing the assessment and providing Australian results overtime and relative to the other participating countries and economies. Further analyses at a national level focus on comparing the performance of different groups in Australian society, such as Australian states and territories, school sectors, males and females, geographic location, Indigenous status and socioeconomic background.

The results for PISA 2018 will be released in December 2019. An Australian database will be released for researchers to conduct their own analyses of the PISA data. PISA products can be accessed at: [www.acer.org/ozpisa/publications-and-data](http://www.acer.org/ozpisa/publications-and-data).

Education Authorities may undertake further analyses of identifiable PISA data, specific to their jurisdiction.

## Will any other information be collected?

The Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY) is a research initiative of the Australian Government Department of Education and Training, and follows young Australians as they transition through school to further study, work and beyond. A student may choose to be part of the LSAY research by providing their contact details (name, address, phone number and email). The contact details will be disclosed to the Wallis Consulting Group who will contact the student. For more information about LSAY go to <https://www.lsay.edu.au>

Some PISA schools will be sampled to participate in the OECD's Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS). TALIS focuses on the learning environment and the working conditions of teachers. Twenty teachers in each school will be asked to complete a questionnaire to provide input into education analysis and policy development. TALIS will take place in October 2018.

PISA data is used for other students being LSAY and TALIS.

## Privacy

ACER recognises the privacy of individuals as fundamental in relation to the conduct of the 2018 cycle of PISA. For ACER's privacy policy go to <https://www.acer.org/privacy>