



Facts for Parents

TIMSS Advanced 2015

ADVANCED



Between March and May 2015, your teenager's school will be one of several hundred schools nationwide taking part in a special component of the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), called TIMSS Advanced. The schools were selected randomly to represent the nation's schools that offer courses in advanced mathematics and physics. Within each school, twelfth-grade students were selected randomly to represent the nation's twelfth-graders who have taken or are taking advanced mathematics, such as calculus or advanced physics. Your teenager was among those students selected to take part in TIMSS Advanced.

What is TIMSS?

TIMSS is an international assessment that measures student learning in mathematics and science. Every 4 years since 1995, TIMSS documents worldwide trends in the mathematics and science achievement of fourth- and eighth-graders. The National Center for Education Statistics within the U.S. Department of Education sponsors U.S. participation in TIMSS. Along with more than 50 other countries, the United States will take part in the 2015 TIMSS cycle, as we did in 1995, 1999, 2003, 2007, and 2011. TIMSS 2015 will include the TIMSS Advanced component, which will be administered to twelfth-graders.

What is the purpose of the TIMSS Advanced?

TIMSS Advanced measures advanced mathematics and physics achievement for students in their final year of secondary school. It will provide information about how many students are excelling at highly specialized science and mathematics content in comparison with countries around the world. In the United States, TIMSS Advanced students have taken or are taking calculus or an advanced physics course.

What is involved?

TIMSS staff will visit the school and administer the study, which will take approximately 2½ hours. The assessment itself is 90 minutes, with breaks between

sections. Students will also be asked some questions about themselves and their educational experience.

What are the benefits?

The nation as a whole benefits from TIMSS by having a greater understanding of how the knowledge and skills of the best prepared U.S. twelfth-graders compare with twelfth-graders from other countries who have taken specialized mathematics and science courses. Schools that participate in TIMSS will receive \$200, and students who participate will receive a small gift that we believe they will like. Participating students will also receive a volunteer service certificate of 4 hours from the U.S. Department of Education.

Who administers TIMSS Advanced?

The entire assessment is administered by trained staff from Westat, a research organization under contract to the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics.

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. Code, Section 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.

Where can I find out more about TIMSS and TIMSS Advanced?

More information about TIMSS is available at the TIMSS website at <http://nces.ed.gov/timss> or <http://timss.bc.edu>. If you would like to contact a TIMSS staff member directly, please feel free to call the TIMSS hotline at **855-445-5604** or email us at TIMSS@westat.com.