

# TIMSS and PIRLS: IEA's International Large Scale Assessments

Assessment for Educational Reform  
and Improvement.

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# OUTLINE

- WHY ILSA – WHAT IS THE GOAL?
- WHAT AND HOW?
- WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE DATA?
- WHAT DO WE NEED TO CONSIDER FOR INTERPRETATION OF LEARNING OUTCOMES?

# Impetus for ILSA

- Growing demand for data/evidence based policy development.
- Growing concerns related to quality of outcomes, equity, efficiency- move away from focus on inputs.
- Globalization and changing economic base from industrialized to knowledge based economies.

# The Demand for evidence

- “At all levels in an educational system, from the teacher in the classroom, through the administrator to the policymaker, decision have continually to be made, most of the time on the basis of very little factual information’ (Postlethwaite, 1974).

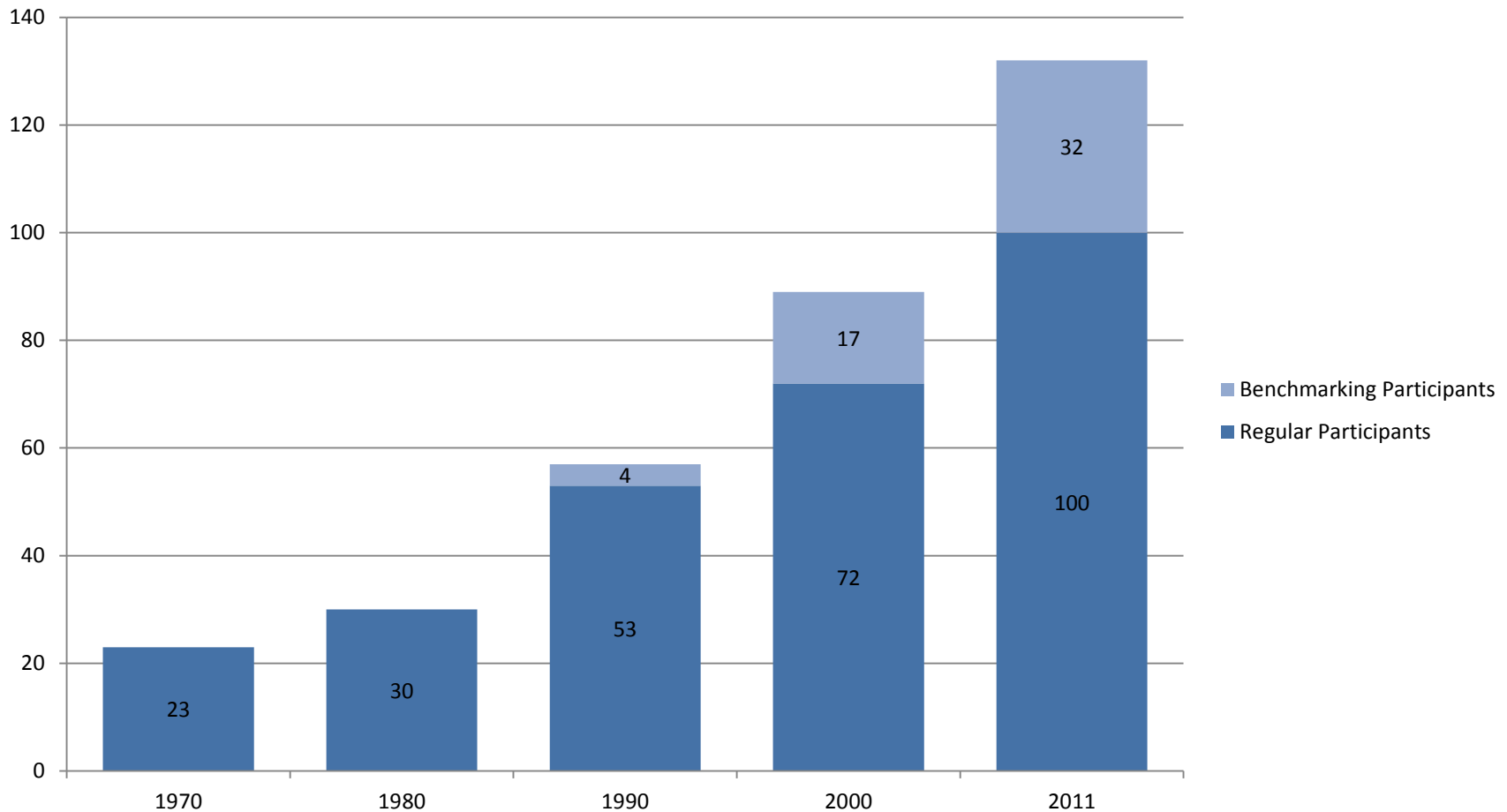
# Why International Comparisons

- “If custom and law define what is educationally allowable within a nation, the educational systems beyond one’s national boundaries suggest what is educationally possible”(Foshay 1962:p. 2).

# The Growth of ILSA

- Decades since the mid 80's growth in Providers
- IEA:TIMSS, PIRLS, pre-PIRLS , e-PIRLS, ICILS ICCS, TED's-M
- OECD PISA, TALIS, PIACC
- UNESCO: LLECE, SACMEQ
- CONFENMEN: PASEC
- Increased diversity – economic, cultural, linguistic

# Cumulative growth in unique IEA participants over the decades (beginning of each decade)



# The Goal (s) of ILSA

Analysis beyond the mean and International Rankings.

Intended to provide insights into factors contributing to our understanding of outcomes.

Needs to be integrated with contextual information.

Needs to be understood as both process and product.



# Design

- Grade Based Representative Probability Sample.
- Key Transition Points (viz. PIRLS)
- Content and Cognitive Domains
- Curriculum Model- intended, implemented, achieved curriculum Knowledge, Attitudes, Skills, Dispositions- POLICY FOCUS
- Comprehensive background data, Country, School, Teacher, Student, Parent
- Trend Design.

# Design

BIB Spiral Design

3 Parameter Rasch Model full imputation

14 booklets, 2 blocks 1 math 1 science

350 items 4<sup>th</sup> Grade 450 items 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

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# Execution

Consortium Boston College, Statistics Canada,  
IEA Secretariat and DPC with ETS

Collaborative network – National Research  
Coordinators

Expert Development Groups

Translation Verification and Quality Control

# TIMSS & PIRLS Assessment(s)

TIMSS Grade 4 8 and 12 (Advanced).

TIMSS Numeracy – 4 year cycle

PIRLS Grade 4

Pre-PIRLS

e-PIRLS

5 year cycle

# 2016 Reading Framework

# 2015 Mathematics Framework

	%	40%
Reasoning	20%	25%



# TIMSS 2016 Science Framework

# Reporting Strategy

- Achievement Outcomes- overall, sub-domains, achievement benchmarks, relationship with background scales
- Encyclopedia
- Thematic Reports
- Technical Reports
- International Databases
- Released Materials



# TIMSS & PIRLS 2011 Score Range

SUBJ	COUNTRY	SCORE	Country	Score G6/9
G4M	Singapore	606		
G4M	Yemen	248	Yemen	348
G8M	Korea	613		
	Ghana	331	Honduras	338
G4S	Korea	613		
	Yemen	209	Yemen	345
G8S	Singapore	590		
	Ghana	306	Ghana	332
Reading	Hong Kong	571		
	Morocco	310	Botswana	419

# US TIMSS and PIRLS Rankings 2011

Mathematics G4	11	541
Mathematics G8	9	509
Science G4	7	544
Science G8	10	525
Reading	6	556

## TIMSS Mathematics Grade 8

<b>Massachusetts</b>	<b>561</b>
Minnesota	545
North Carolina	537
Indiana	522
Colorado	518
Connecticut	518
Florida	513
California	493
Alabama	466

## TIMSS Science Grade 8

<b>Massachusetts</b>	<b>567</b>
Minnesota	553
Colorado	542
Indiana	533
Connecticut	532
North Carolina	532
Florida	530
California	499
Alabama	485



# TIMSS 2011 Grade 4

# US Grade 4 Mathematics TRENDS



# US Grade 8 Mathematics TRENDS

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12

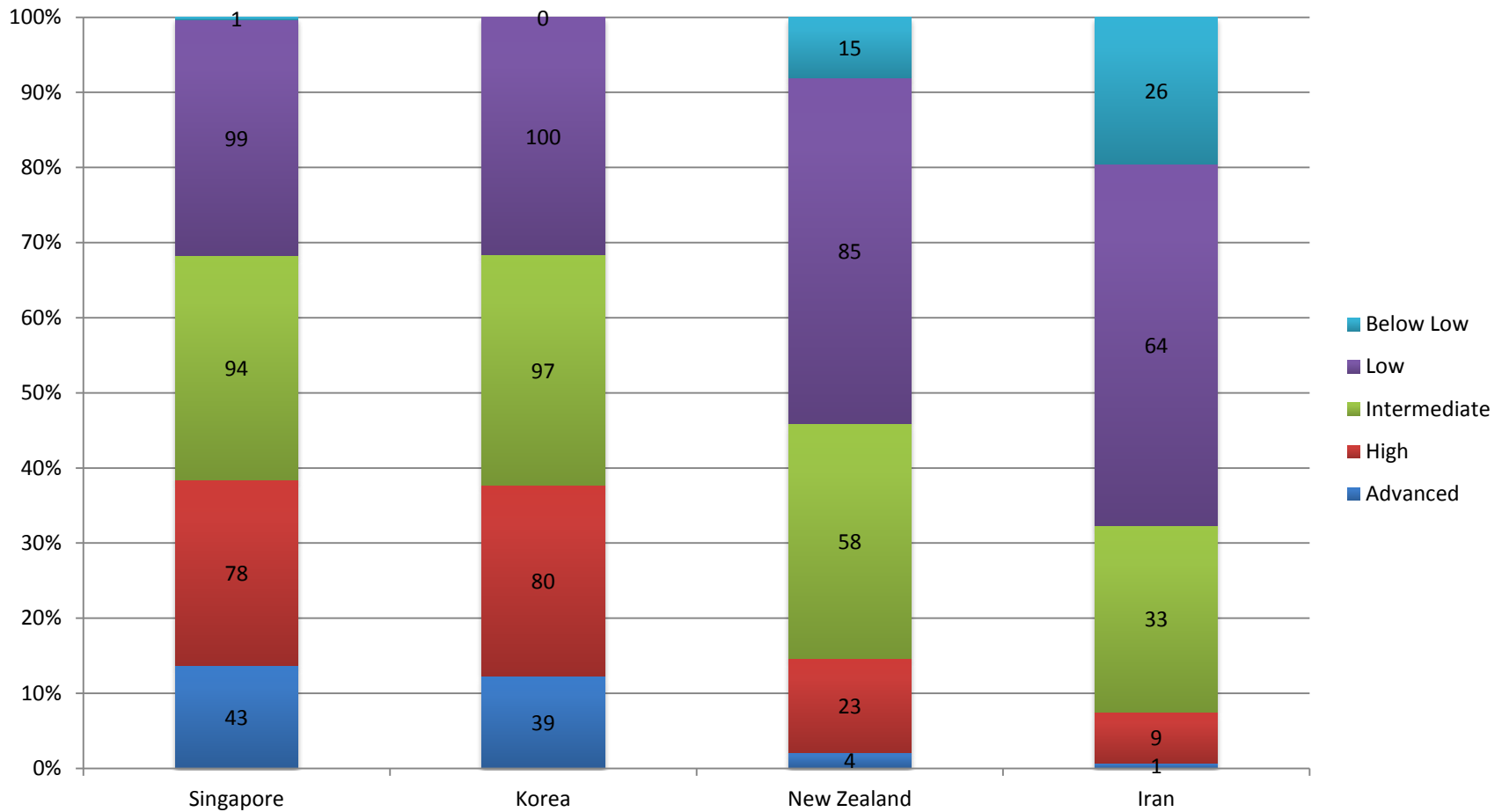




# Grade 4 Mathematics Advanced and Low International Benchmark

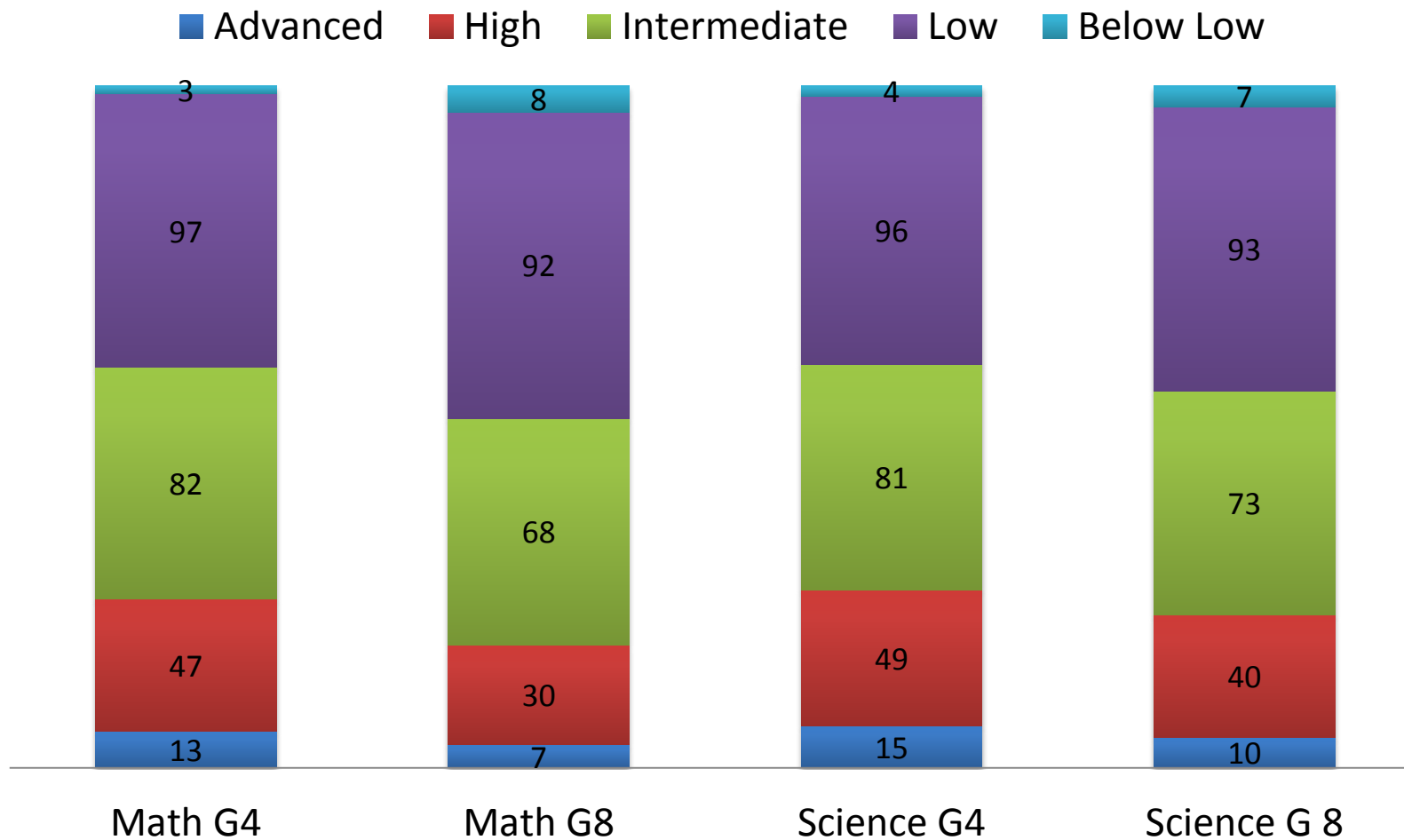
- Advanced 625: Students can apply their understanding in a variety of relatively complex situations and explain reasoning ...Can solve multi step problems involving whole numbers and proportions ... increased understanding of fractions and decimals
- Low 400: Some basic mathematical knowledge- can add and subtract whole numbers read and complete simple graphs

# Percentage of G4 mathematics population reaching international benchmarks-TIMSS 2011



# US Benchmark Performance

## TIMSS 2011



2011  
atics







# atics Cognitive Domains by Gender





# The Challenge of Enhancing Impact

- Detail is important- understand purpose
- Thinking globally analysing/acting locally
- ILSA as process and product
- Integration of Framework, Encyclopaedia, Background data, Technical reports. Quality Assurance procedures, Training
- Need strategic investment/vision/ownership
- Enhance basic template.
- Training
- Policy -Research integration

# Thank you

Information [www.iea.nl](http://www.iea.nl)

[www.isc.bc.edu](http://www.isc.bc.edu)



# 2016 TIMSS Numeracy

