



## OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

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### **What is PISA?**

PISA stands for Programme for International Student Assessment. It is an international study that measures the abilities of 15-year-olds from over 70 different countries in science, reading, mathematics, and problem solving. PISA 2015 is the sixth PISA study that has been conducted since 2000 and mathematics will be the primary assessment domain. While previous PISA assessments measured students' knowledge and skills primarily using a paper-and-pencil assessment, PISA 2015 will measure their skills and knowledge through a computer-based assessment (CBA).

### **What will students be asked to do?**

In April and May 2015, about 20,000 students from 900 schools across Canada will be participating in the 6<sup>th</sup> cycle of PISA.

- Approximately 42 students from each selected school have been randomly selected to participate in a computer-based assessment in mathematics, reading, science and problem solving.
- In some schools, a sub-sample of students who participate in the assessment of mathematics, reading, science and problem solving will also participate in an assessment of Financial Literacy.
- The information collected will be kept strictly confidential.

### **Do students need to prepare for the test session?**

**No.** Students do **not** need to prepare for this study. During the test session, they will be asked to answer all the questions to the best of their ability. They will not have access to external resources or reference materials.

### **Will the results affect the student's school record?**

**No.** Students' results will **not** affect their academic record as the results will be used for research purposes only. However, the results are critical in shaping the profile of Canadian 15-year-olds.

### **Who is interested by this information?**

Parents, students, the Canadian public and those responsible for education want to know whether youth are acquiring the necessary skills and knowledge to meet the challenges of the future. Information obtained from provincial, national and international measures helps us understand the achievement of students.

The results of PISA 2012 were released on December 3, 2013 ([www.cmec.ca](http://www.cmec.ca)).

### **How were the students chosen?**

Around 900 schools were randomly selected to represent Canada. Within these schools, a sample of students aged 15 has been randomly selected to take part in the study.

### **Who is conducting the study?**

PISA is being directed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). In Canada, PISA is carried out through a partnership between the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) and Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC).

**For more information, visit our web site at [http://www.cmec.ca/251/Programs-and-Initiatives/Assessment/Programme-for-International-Student-Assessment-\(PISA\)/Overview/index.html](http://www.cmec.ca/251/Programs-and-Initiatives/Assessment/Programme-for-International-Student-Assessment-(PISA)/Overview/index.html)**