About TIMSS

What is TIMSS?
» The Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) is designed to measure the achievement of school students at Year 5 and Year 9.
» It is conducted every 4 years. It first started in 1994.
» It is a measure of student achievement that allows for comparisons over time.
» It creates a rich knowledge base to make evidence-informed decisions for improving educational policy and practice.
» The Ministry of Education is responsible for carrying out the study across New Zealand.

We will provide you with...
» A school-specific summary of your students' performance and perceptions of maths and science alongside national averages.
» An honorarium (equivalent to one teacher release day) to acknowledge your school's effort and energy

Your school’s contribution to TIMSS is extremely valuable to us. We believe your participation can also be very useful to you.

Many schools discuss the feedback with their senior staff or BOT and others use the questions with their wider staff or students.

TIMSS at your school...
» A nominated liaison person coordinates with TIMSS researchers
» The testing date is chosen by the school for your convenience
» Two paper-based 36 minute assessment sessions for Year 5 and two 45 minute sessions for Year 9 in mathematics and science taken as in-class tests to minimise disruption
» Two to four classes are selected in each school, or your school can opt for the whole year level to be assessed
» Questionnaires for the principal, teachers, parents (Year 5 only) and students to gain an insight into each group's attitudes, experiences and perceptions
Your school can use the TIMSS results to...

» understand how students at your school feel about mathematics and science

» compare your school to the national averages, particularly for contextual factors

» understand the relationship between achievement and enjoyment

» develop and review policy

» inform and improve teaching practice

» identify the gaps in learning resources and opportunities

Your school will also have early access to the contextual questions which you may choose to use with other students

The information your school gives us will be used nationally...

» to understand different contextual factors that impact student achievement over time such as student attitudes/experiences, family background, school environment, opportunity to learn etc.

» to monitor overall student performance and New Zealand-wide progress towards education goals

» to examine New Zealand performance relative to other countries, so that knowledge can be shared to benefit education worldwide.

» confidentially - no individuals or schools will be identified when reporting the results

Testimonials:

Thank you to the TIMSS team. The children thought they were very important sitting this test.

Thank you for all your wonderful organisation; everything ran like clockwork.

It was really interesting filling out the school questionnaire - I learnt a few things about my school that I hadn’t known or thought about before, I was particularly surprised when I worked out how many students had shifted out of our area this year.

Dear TIMSS Team, Many thanks for your excellent organisation. ...Thank you too for the generous koha of a release day. That is very much appreciated.

Dear TIMSS team,
It was a pleasure working with you. We appreciate your willingness to reimburse the school for our administrative time.