

# TIMSS SA Newsletter

## TIMSS Resources



Inclusive Economic  
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Post release of the TIMSS 2019 results, the [International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement \(IEA\)](#) and the [TIMSS and PIRLS International Study Center](#) released the TIMSS 2019 International Data Repository and Infographics. We share these links and other relevant resources with you.

## TIMSS 2019 international Data Repository

The 2019 [TIMSS international datasets](#) are now available.

The fourth grade database includes learner achievement data, as well as the learner, parent, teacher, school, and curricular context data for the 58 participating countries and 6 benchmarking entities. For the eighth grade assessment, the database includes learner achievement data, as well as the learner, teacher, school, and curricular context data for the 39 participating countries and 7 benchmarking entities.

The TIMSS 2019 International Database also includes many supporting documents in addition to the User Guide, such as achievement and context data almanacs, item percent correct statistics for all items in the TIMSS 2019 assessments, and IRT item parameters.

You will need the Acrobat Reader and IEA IDB Analyzer to work with the downloaded files. This software is available to download from the repository.

## TIMSS 2019 Infographic Dashboard

The TIMSS 2019 Infographic Dashboard provides some of the key results from TIMSS, in relation to the following aspects:



[TIMSS facts and international results](#)



[TIMSS benchmarks and home backgrounds](#)



[TIMSS gender differences and professional development](#)



[Digitalization and the use of technology in mathematics and science instruction](#)

## TIMSS Released Items

With each completed round of TIMSS, a set of mathematics and science achievement items are released. These provide exemplars of the type of items that are included in the study.

[Here](#) you can access the TIMSS 2015 Grade 9 released items, together with the TIMSS 2015 Grade 9 Diagnostic Reports for South Africa. The latter reports identified common errors made by learners and suggested remedial measures for improved learning.

## Global Increase in the Socioeconomic Achievement Gap, 1964 to 2015

### We draw your attention to this journal publication:

The socioeconomic achievement gap (SES) achievement gap has been documented across a wide range of countries. [This study](#) combines 30 international large-scale assessments over 50 years, representing 100 countries and about 5.8 million students. SES achievement gaps are computed between the 90th and 10th percentiles of three available measures of family SES: parents' education, parents' occupation, and number of books in the home. Results indicate that, for each of the three SES variables, achievement gaps increased in a majority of sample countries. Yet there is substantial cross-national variation in the size of increases in SES achievement gaps. The largest increases are observed in countries with rapidly increasing school enrollments, implying that expanding access reveals educational inequality that was previously hidden outside the school system. However, gaps also increased in many countries with consistently high enrollments, suggesting that cognitive skills are an increasingly important dimension of educational stratification worldwide.

### How to keep children learning at home

A piece that appeared in The Conversation in 2020 by Andrea Juan focused on [learning in the home](#) using parental reports on activities that they performed with their children before year one, from the TIMSS 2015 data. The piece emphasised that early learning efforts at home will make a positive difference to performance of students at year five level, and highlighted which kind of activities seemed to have had a greater influence than others.

Encouraging learning at home has become even more crucial in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic which has had an impact on the amount of time children have been in school over the past year.

### IEA International Research Conference: Call for Proposals

Calls for proposals for paper, poster and symposia sessions are now open for the IEA's 9<sup>th</sup> International Research Conference, titled *Researching Education: Trends and Changes*. The conference is scheduled for 16-18 November 2021, in Dubai.



Any submission needs to be based on IEA data and linked to either an IEA study or their methods and procedures.

For more information please visit the [IRC webpage](#).

### COVID-19: an opportunity for cultivating a positive public relationship with science in South Africa

Cultivating a positive relationship with science is crucial for, and contingent on, a trusting, scientifically literate and critically engaged public. A 2020 HSRC Review piece by Sylvia Hannan, Saahier Parker and Vijay Reddy presents some key findings from local and international COVID-19 surveys that highlight the importance of understanding and addressing the [public's relationship with science](#).

### Interested in using TIMSS data for research?

If you are interested in working with us on publications based on the TIMSS data, please [contact us](#).

[www.timss-sa.org.za](http://www.timss-sa.org.za)