

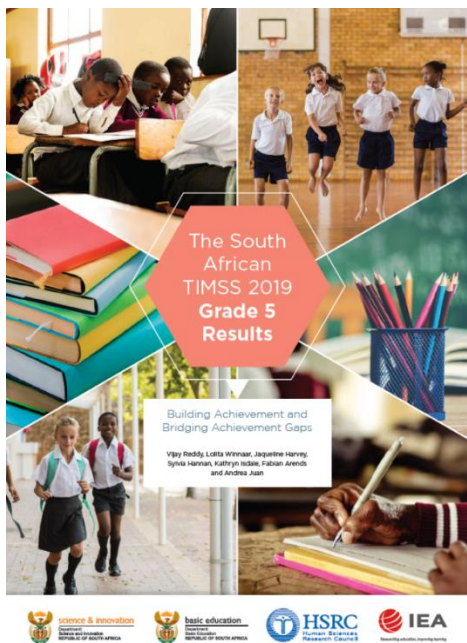
TIMSS SA Newsletter



Inclusive Economic Development Research Division
Human Sciences Research Council

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The South African TIMSS 2019 Grade 5 Results



We are pleased to announce the publication of the [South African TIMSS 2019 Grade 5 Results](#) and the [South African TIMSS 2019 Grade 5 Executive Summary](#).

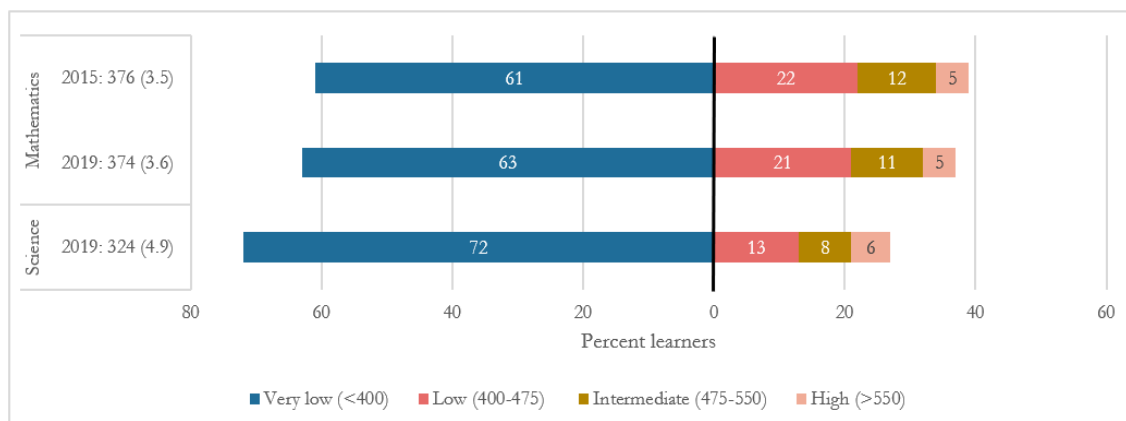
[Read the report](#) to find out more about the school, classroom, home and individual factors that are related to Grade 5 learners' mathematics and science achievement.

Below we present two results from the report.

South African Grade 5 mathematics and science achievement

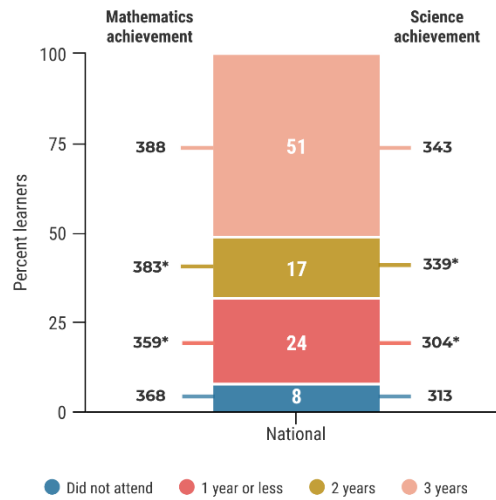
We were perplexed that the South African average mathematics score did not change between the TIMSS 2015 and 2019 cycles (376 and 374 respectively). In 2019, 37 percent of learners had acquired basic mathematical knowledge.

The TIMSS 2019 average science scores (324) were low, and 28 percent of learners achieved basic science knowledge. We recommend a review of the primary school sector to understand issues of support, effectiveness of Foundation phase interventions and the nature of teaching, learning and assessments.



Prioritise the First 1000 days of formal learning (i.e. Grade RR, R and 1)

Learners who attended at least two years of pre-school achieved significantly higher mathematics and science scores than those who attended for one year or did not attend pre-school. We recommend that all children receive at least two years of pre-school education. Early learning must focus on both access and high quality learning experiences. Children must be in cognitively rich and stimulating environments that focus on first language development and reading with meaning, basic computational skills, and writing simple sentences.



Interested in using TIMSS South Africa data for research?

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

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