

To the parents of the students involved in the
IQB Trends in Student Achievement 2024

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Your child's class was selected in a random procedure for participation in the study "Trends in Student Achievement 2024" in mathematics and the sciences. In this letter we would like to describe the aims and course of the study in more detail to you.

What are the goals and content of IQB Trends in Student Achievement 2024?

In 2003 and 2004, the education ministers of the 16 federal states adopted educational standards for various school subjects, including mathematics and the sciences (biology, chemistry, and physics). The educational standards describe what students should know and be able to do up to a certain stage of their school career - in this case by the end of secondary stage I. With the IQB Trends in Student Achievement we regularly review the extent to which educational standards are attained in the federal states. This information is important for improving and further developing the education system.

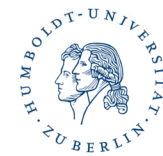
Who conducts the IQB Trends in Student Achievement 2024?

The education ministries of the federal states have commissioned the study. The Institute for Educational Quality Improvement [Institut zur Qualitätsentwicklung im Bildungswesen (IQB)] at Humboldt University, Berlin is responsible for the scientific standards and data protection.

IEA Hamburg, which has considerable experience in conducting education studies, is responsible for implementing the study. IEA Hamburg trains survey coordinators who will then conduct the study at your child's school.

What happens in the IQB Trends in Student Achievement 2024?

The study will be conducted on a morning between April and June 2024 in your child's school. The survey takes around four hours, including several breaks. On the day of the survey, the students first work through various tasks in mathematics and/or the sciences and a few tasks on logical reasoning and language skills. After this, they receive a questionnaire.



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Participation in the study is voluntary for your child.

What questions are asked in the student questionnaire?

In the student questionnaire we want to learn about the learning conditions for your child at school and at home. We need this information, for example, to examine whether different groups of students learn equally well and how learning conditions at school can be improved. That's why we ask your child to complete the questionnaire. The questions will cover a selection of the following subject areas:

- Personal information about your child and their family (sex, year and month of birth, school career to date, native language(s), language use and acquisition, household equipment, own country of birth and country of birth of the parents as well as their education and professions)
- Use of school and extracurricular additional offerings (e.g., private lessons)
- Assessments of own motivation (e.g., subject-related interests), aspects of instruction at school and interdisciplinary skills (e.g., learning strategies)
- Your child's views of their fellow students and the school
- Your child's career-related expectations
- Use of digital media

You can see the student questionnaire at the office in your child's school or online at www.iqb.huberlin.de/SFB2024. To do so, enter the password **bt2024sfb**.

Moreover, your child's school is asked to send us on a separate list information about the year and month of birth, sex, native language, grades, envisaged school-leaving qualification and, if applicable, refugee status and details of any special educational needs.

The study may only be conducted if all data protection regulations are adhered to. All of the documents and planned processes used in the study were reviewed and approved in the Education Ministry of your federal state with the involvement of the Data Protection Commissioner. Please also note the detailed **Notes on Data Protection** on p. 4.

What we really want to ask you:

For the success of the study and quality of the results, it is very important that as many students as possible from the selected classes take part in the study. We therefore ask you to ensure that your child takes part in the IQB Trends in Student Achievement 2024. **Please complete the enclosed consent form and give it, signed, to your child to return to school.** Only then will your child be allowed to take part in the study.

Naturally, students who are not taking part in the study will be looked after at school during this time.

The IQB Trends in Student Achievement 2024 also includes a **parent survey**, which is very important for the study because in this way we learn more about your child's learning environment outside school. On the survey day, every child will be given a parent questionnaire and a covering letter. **We ask you to complete the questionnaire and send it back to school with your child on the next day, if possible.**

When will the results be published?

After the end of the data evaluation, the results will be summarised in a report, which will be published in autumn of 2025. This report can then be accessed on the IQB website. Following this publication, each of the participating schools will also receive a summary of the results obtained at that school.

If you have any questions, please contact the school management or the relevant member of staff at IEA Hamburg (Ms Cornelia Kutter, Tel.: 040 48500 629; e-mail: bs@iea-hamburg.de).

Thank you for your support!

Yours sincerely



Prof. Dr Petra Stanat
Director of the IQB, Berlin

Notes on Data Protection

- Participation in the IQB Trends in Student Achievement 2024 is voluntary and non-participation will not have any disadvantages for you or your child. We may collect and process data, including the information about origin and native languages, only if you give your consent. You give your consent by completing and signing the consent form. This will enable your child to take part in the study. Even when participating, your child may leave out individual questions in the questionnaire that she or he cannot answer or does not want to answer. She or he may also stop answering completely.
- You may informally revoke your consent without giving any reasons. To do this, please find out your child's student identification number (Student ID) from the person in the school who is responsible for the study. Then address your revocation, including details of the Student ID, and with the reference 'Student Participation' to the IEA Hamburg (Ms Cornelia Kutter, Tel.: 040 48500 629, e-mail: bs@iea-hamburg.de). If you revoke by 30.10.2024, the data collected up to that date will not be further processed. A revocation after 30.10.2024 can no longer be implemented because the pseudonymised data will already have been transmitted to the IQB for evaluation. It is no longer possible to amend the data after this time so that the data sets can be analysed there. There will be no disadvantages for you or your child if you revoke consent.
- No names are entered in the survey documents. They will only be marked by the Student ID (pseudonym) which is used to bring together all information about a single person. Before the survey, the survey coordinator uses a list to check whether the IDs and names match so that the students receive the correct documents. The students' names list remains in the school and the school may not pass it on to anyone - not even to the IEA Hamburg or the IQB. It will be destroyed on 30.10.2024; after that, it will not be possible to match the names and the IDs. All information will be stored on electronic data carriers only with the ID (without names).
- Unauthorised people (e.g. teachers or other school staff) will never be able to see the test results or the information in the questionnaire. The test booklets and questionnaires that have been processed will be collected by the survey coordinators after completion and sent directly to the IEA Hamburg.
- Immediately after the surveys, the IEA Hamburg enters and processes the pseudonymised data and then forwards it exclusively to the study management at the IQB in Berlin. The data will be evaluated there.
- The data will be processed in line with Article 6 para. 1 lit. a) GDPR. If you have any questions relating to data protection, please contact the Data Protection Commissioner of the IQB (Ms Gesine Hoffmann-Holland, Tel.: 030 2093 20020, e-mail: datenschutz@uv.hu-berlin.de). We also refer you to the statutory right to complain to the supervisory authority responsible for data protection (Berlin Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information).
- All survey documentation and electronic data will be destroyed or deleted in the IEA Hamburg two years after the data has been passed on to the study coordinators at the IQB.
- At the IQB, all of the information that could enable tracing back to specific people in particular individual cases is put together in categories that apply to larger groups of people. Only information prepared accordingly is analysed and published or is part of data sets to be passed on. The original data sets are not passed on by the IQB and are deleted after ten years.
- All reports about the results of the study are based on summarised data. It will not therefore be possible to assign the results to individual people. No connection can be made to you or your child.

Declaration of Consent
for participation in the IQB Trends in Student Achievement 2024

I/we consent that my/our child

(please enter the child's name in block capitals)

will take part in the IQB Trends in Student Achievement 2024 and that the student's data collected in this way as well as our data, including the information about our origin and native languages, will be processed and used within the context of the study.

Town, Date

Signature of one* or both parents/guardians

*I hereby confirm that I am authorised by the other parent/guardian to sign the consent form also on his/her behalf.