

APPENDIX A

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TIMSS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study) is the largest ongoing undertaking of IEA, an international cooperative of national research institutions and government agencies that has been conducting studies of cross-national achievement since 1959. With a Secretariat in Amsterdam, a large Data Processing and Research Center in Hamburg, and more than 60 member countries, IEA is headed by Executive Director Hans Wagemaker.

It takes extreme dedication on the part of many individuals around the world to make TIMSS a success. TIMSS is a truly global, cooperative enterprise made possible by the work of individuals around the world on overall project tasks and within each of the participating countries.

The TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center at Boston College, led by Executive Directors Ina V.S. Mullis and Michael O. Martin, is responsible for the direction and management of TIMSS, together with PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study). To carry out these two ambitious international studies, the TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center works closely with the IEA Secretariat in Amsterdam and the IEA Data Processing and Research Center in Hamburg. Also, Statistics Canada is responsible for school and sampling activities and Educational Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey provides guidance on psychometric methodology. In particular, a great deal of the credit for TIMSS is due the National Research Coordinators designated by the participating countries to be responsible for the complex tasks involved in implementing the studies in their countries.

With each new assessment cycle of a study, one of the most important tasks is to update the assessment frameworks. Updating the TIMSS assessment frameworks for 2015 began in September of 2012, and has involved extensive input and reviews by individuals at the TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center, the IEA, the TIMSS 2015 National Research Coordinators, and the two TIMSS expert committees: the TIMSS 2015 Science and Mathematics Item Review Committee, and the TIMSS 2015 Questionnaire Item Review Committee. Of all the individuals around the world that it takes to make TIMSS a success, the intention here is to specifically acknowledge some of those persons who had particular responsibility and involvement in developing and producing the *TIMSS 2015 Assessment Frameworks*.

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TIMSS 2015 Science and Mathematics Item Review Committee

The Science and Mathematics Item Review Committee (SMIRC), comprised of internationally recognized mathematics and science experts, reviewed and recommended updates for the TIMSS 2015 Mathematics and Science Frameworks. The SMIRC also reviews the TIMSS 2015 items at key points in the development process.

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