

PISA 2025

Personal Data Protection Notice

The OECD is committed to protecting the personal data it processes, in accordance with its [Personal Data Protection Rules](#).

PISA is the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment, an educational research survey sponsored by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The Cyprus National Centre (Center for Educational Research and Evaluation of the Pedagogical Institute) administers PISA on behalf of, the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth. PISA measures 15-year-olds' ability to use their reading, mathematics and science knowledge and skills to meet real-life challenges. Information from PISA is used to research, monitor and evaluate each country/economy's education system, relative to other participating countries/economies, to understand the strengths and weaknesses of their system.

The data collected during PISA through tests of knowledge and skills (covering reading, mathematics, science, and in PISA 2025 English as a foreign language, and of Learning in the Digital World), and background questionnaires administered to students, schools, and in some cases parents and teachers will be used by researchers and policymakers to write reports and design educational policies that can improve the teaching and learning experience for students. PISA provides an important snapshot of the reading, science and mathematics skills and competencies of 15-year-old students in participating countries/economies. Combining the results of the assessment with the contextual information provided by students and school principals in the questionnaire allows educators and policymakers to better understand differences in student performance and to make informed decisions. Information may also be obtained from parents and teachers in some countries/economies that administer these optional questionnaires.

Students are asked to sit a 2-hour test and a 40-minute questionnaire as part of their participation in PISA. The test session will involve a combination of questions on reading, mathematics, and science, and on an innovative domain. In PISA 2025, the main domain of assessment is science, and the innovative domain measures student Learning in the Digital World. In some countries/economies, including Cyprus, the assessment also includes English as a foreign language. The 2025 questionnaire(s) include topics such as the student's family and home backgrounds, their early childhood care and education, their physical health and emotional well-being, and their attitude to and interest in science as well as their parental education and occupations.

PISA 2025 involves assessment using computer-based PISA assessment platform to be administered online whenever possible. All data is stored securely in Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Google Cloud Platform servers located in the United States or within the European Union, depending on any national requirements. Participant responses to the assessment and/or to the questionnaire will be pseudonymised, with an ID substituted in place of a participant's name. Pseudonymisation means that personal data can no longer be attributed to a person without additional information. All such additional information is stored and processed separately from the assessment data and is protected against merging by technical and organisational measures. National Centres then transfer the assessment data to the institutions that work

with the OECD to design and implement PISA, in a pseudonymised form via a secure FTP server for further processing. For PISA 2025, these institutions are the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), based in Australia, and Westat, based in the United States. During data processing, only the National Centre project team, OECD staff and the project team at the institutions working with the OECD will have access to the assessment data.

All the information participants provide will be treated and stored securely and confidentially, in accordance with applicable legislation, OECD Personal Data Protection [Rules](#) and PISA 2025 Technical Standards. The results of research and analysis conducted on PISA data will be disseminated as aggregated information, from which it will not be possible to directly identify any single individual. School staff or teachers will not be given access to individual student test results or the responses to the questionnaires at any time. The data collected in the course of the study will be released in the form of a pseudonymised dataset. The dataset will contain participant responses to the assessment and to the questionnaire, but will not contain any personal information that would allow an external person to directly identify a student, parent, teacher or school principal. The PISA dataset will be kept indefinitely for research purposes.

The PISA 2025 Technical Standards require the link between a participant name and an ID number to be maintained for quality control procedures. The Cyprus National Centre does not have links between a participant name and an ID number. However, the Cyprus National Centre collaborates with the School Coordinator who has this link stored in a safe place; this is retained until the end of 2026, when the international reports containing the results of the Main Survey will have been published. Once the additional information file with personal data (linking a participant name to an ID number) and all archived school-level materials are deleted, the assessment data is anonymised.

Under the OECD Personal Data Processing [Rules](#), participants have rights to access and rectify personal data, as well as to object to its processing, and request erasure subject to the Rules' scope and restrictions. The OECD considers its relationship with participants to be governed by the [Technical Standards for PISA](#), which include standards on data protection, and are agreed collectively by the OECD countries through the PISA Governing Board.

In addition, participants should note that normally, depending on national legislation:

- A student or his/her parent/guardian and teacher has the right to withdraw from the survey at any time in the course of the assessment.
- A student or his/her parent/guardian and teacher has the right to request to remove responses to the survey, or to view and/or amend any of the information they have provided to PISA's background questionnaires.

For participants to exercise these rights in connection with PISA 2025, please contact the PISA National Project Manager in Cyprus (Dr Yiasemina Karagiorgi, karagiorgi.y@cyearn.pi.ac.cy, tel. 22 402317). Erasure or rectification of an individual's personal data is possible before the data is been de-identified and submitted to the OECD and the contractor or its sub-contractors for analysis. Neither the OECD nor the contractor or its sub-contractors can administer individual rights directly, because they only have access to de-identified data as part of the data protection design for PISA. For more general information about PISA 2025, you can contact the PISA team at the OECD (edu.pisa@oecd.org).

If you have further queries or complaints related to the processing of your personal data, please contact the OECD's Data Protection Officer (dpo@oecd.org). If you need further assistance in resolving claims related to personal data protection you can contact the OECD's Data Protection Commissioner (dpc@oecd.org). Participants in the study have the right to file a complaint to the supervisory authority:

Ioli Ayiomamitou
Data Protection Officer
Pedagogical Institute
40, Macedonias Avenue
2238, Latsia
Tel:22402483
Email: ayiomamitou.i@cyearn.pi.ac.cy