

NEWS

Connecticut Department of Education

Dr. Mark K. McQuillan
Commissioner



For Immediate Release:
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Thursday, September 9, 2010

Connecticut Grade 8 Students to Take Part in International Assessment of Mathematics and Science Skills to Help Determine How U.S. and CT Student Performance Compares with Students' Skills in Other Nations

Connecticut is one of eight states selected by the U.S. Department of Education to participate in a state-level administration of the 2011 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS). Connecticut's participation is part of an effort to link national and international assessments so that states can compare their own students' performance against international benchmarks.

Approximately 60 Connecticut schools in 54 districts will administer the mathematics and science assessment to a sample of Grade 8 students during the TIMSS window beginning April 4, 2011, and continuing through May 27, 2011. By participating in the study, Connecticut eighth graders will provide educators, state policymakers, and the public with access to state-level TIMSS achievement data that can be compared to student achievement data in over 60 countries.

According to Connecticut Education Commissioner Mark K. McQuillan, "Our state's education community is actively engaged in a variety of critical school reform efforts, including a major new emphasis on STEM -- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Participation in TIMSS 2011 will provide us with important data to consider when evaluating our work. The results of the study will help us determine to what degree we are providing our students with high-quality mathematics and science instruction in order to prepare them to compete in a global economy."

In the past, states have paid an estimated \$500,000 to participate in state-level TIMSS. Since Connecticut was selected by the U.S. Department of Education, there will be no cost to the state. Although TIMSS is not designed to provide specific district-, school- or student- level results, the TIMSS results will provide international benchmarking data that would otherwise be very expensive to obtain and likely unavailable during these difficult financial times.

Schools and students are selected by the U.S. Department of Education and TIMSS administrators to provide a representative sample of students from Connecticut. Attached is the list of participating districts.

For information on TIMSS in Connecticut please contact Tom Murphy at thomas.murphy@ct.gov or 860.713.6525, or Renee Savoie at 860.713.6858 or at renee.savoie@ct.gov .