Exhibit 5.3: Schools Where Students Enter the Primary Grades with Literacy Skills

Exhibit 5.3 presents principals' categorizations of their schools according to the percentage of students entering the primary grades with early literacy skills (see the exhibit for details). There was considerable variation in the highest category—more than 75 percent entering with literacy skills—from 96 percent in Ireland where many students start preprimary school after their fourth birthday (see Exhibit 2) to 0 percent in Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Czech Republic, and Germany. On average, 22 percent were in schools where more than 75 percent of the students entered school with literacy skills, and another 47 percent were in schools where 25 to 75 percent entered with literacy skills. Both groups of students had higher average reading achievement than the 31 percent of students attending schools where less than 25 percent of the students entered with literacy skills (516 and 512 vs. 491).

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Exhibit 5.3: Schools Where Students Enter the Primary Grades with Literacy Skills

Students Categorized by Principals' Reports

Students were scored according to their principals' responses about the percentage of children in the school who begin first grade with the six key skills on the *Schools Where Students Enter the Primary Grades with Literacy Skills* scale. Students who attend **Schools Where More than 75% Enter with Skills** had a score on the scale of at least 12.6, which corresponds to their principals reporting that over 75% of the students have three of the skills and 51-75% of the students have three of the skills, on average. Students who attend **Schools Where Less than 25% Enter with Skills** had a score no higher than 9.2, which corresponds to their principals reporting that less than 25% of the students have three of the skills and 25-50% of the students have three of the skills, on average. All other students attended **Schools Where 25% to 75% Enter with Skills**.

Country	Schools Where More than 75% Enter with Skills		Schools Where 25-75% Enter with Skills		Schools Where Less than 25% Enter with Skills		Average Scale Score	Difference in Average Scale Score from 2011
	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement		
Ireland	96 (1.5)	570 (2.7)	4 (1.5)	545 (18.4)	0 (0.1)	~ ~	14.2 (0.07)	- -
Northern Ireland r	94 (1.9)	567 (2.7)	5 (1.7)	517 (14.4)	2 (0.8)	~ ~	14.2 (0.09)	- -
Singapore	83 (0.0)	580 (3.5)	15 (0.0)	553 (9.5)	2 (0.0)	~ ~	13.8 (0.00)	0.9 (0.00) ⬤
Spain	62 (3.2)	533 (1.8)	36 (3.2)	519 (3.5)	2 (0.8)	~ ~	12.8 (0.10)	0.4 (0.14) ⬤
United States	53 (4.8)	560 (3.8)	32 (4.4)	540 (6.0)	15 (3.2)	527 (7.9)	12.2 (0.22)	- -
Latvia	53 (4.7)	560 (2.8)	44 (4.6)	557 (2.9)	3 (1.3)	525 (12.5)	12.5 (0.14)	- -
Qatar	52 (0.3)	466 (2.4)	33 (0.3)	420 (2.7)	15 (0.2)	411 (6.0)	12.0 (0.01)	0.6 (0.13) ⬤
England	46 (4.0)	567 (3.3)	41 (4.1)	550 (3.8)	12 (2.6)	554 (5.6)	12.0 (0.17)	r -0.2 (0.23)
Chinese Taipei	42 (3.5)	557 (3.4)	50 (3.4)	564 (2.3)	8 (2.1)	540 (5.5)	12.1 (0.16)	0.4 (0.21)
United Arab Emirates	41 (2.1)	497 (5.0)	43 (2.1)	426 (5.3)	16 (1.3)	394 (6.4)	11.7 (0.08)	0.5 (0.12) ⬤
Hong Kong SAR	38 (4.0)	567 (4.3)	50 (4.9)	575 (3.2)	12 (3.7)	556 (13.1)	11.9 (0.20)	-0.1 (0.25)
Denmark	36 (4.1)	553 (3.6)	59 (4.1)	546 (2.9)	5 (1.6)	530 (8.0)	11.9 (0.10)	0.3 (0.13)
Bahrain	33 (2.5)	466 (4.3)	46 (3.2)	444 (4.4)	21 (2.5)	418 (5.7)	11.1 (0.10)	- -
Macao SAR	33 (0.1)	542 (1.9)	55 (0.1)	550 (1.4)	13 (0.1)	538 (3.3)	11.5 (0.00)	- -
Canada	30 (2.5)	554 (3.2)	57 (2.6)	546 (2.0)	13 (1.8)	508 (8.0)	11.5 (0.10)	- -
Kuwait	30 (4.6)	422 (10.4)	49 (5.0)	386 (7.8)	21 (3.6)	378 (8.8)	11.1 (0.16)	- -
Egypt	25 (3.4)	356 (15.3)	61 (4.2)	321 (7.5)	14 (3.1)	322 (15.5)	11.3 (0.15)	- -
Sweden	23 (3.8)	569 (5.1)	72 (4.1)	553 (2.6)	5 (1.8)	519 (8.5)	11.5 (0.11)	r 0.0 (0.18)
Kazakhstan	17 (2.6)	552 (8.0)	68 (3.5)	533 (3.2)	15 (2.9)	532 (7.2)	11.0 (0.12)	- -
Chile	17 (3.4)	522 (6.8)	45 (4.3)	506 (4.3)	38 (4.2)	467 (5.0)	10.1 (0.20)	- -
Poland	14 (3.3)	558 (6.1)	56 (4.9)	565 (2.9)	30 (4.2)	567 (5.1)	10.2 (0.18)	- -
Bulgaria	12 (2.6)	573 (13.9)	60 (3.9)	567 (4.6)	28 (3.5)	509 (8.9)	10.3 (0.14)	0.6 (0.20) ⬤
Azerbaijan	12 (2.7)	481 (9.3)	42 (4.3)	472 (8.2)	45 (4.0)	468 (5.6)	9.7 (0.17)	0.8 (0.21) ⬤
Morocco	12 (2.0)	405 (9.7)	36 (2.8)	379 (5.5)	53 (3.1)	332 (5.7)	9.5 (0.13)	-0.5 (0.18) ⬇
Saudi Arabia	12 (2.3)	433 (12.4)	49 (3.8)	425 (7.1)	40 (3.6)	435 (7.2)	10.0 (0.14)	0.5 (0.21)
Georgia	11 (2.1)	495 (8.9)	30 (3.4)	494 (4.2)	59 (3.7)	485 (4.2)	9.4 (0.16)	0.0 (0.23)
Oman	11 (1.5)	435 (9.6)	61 (3.3)	420 (4.4)	28 (3.1)	408 (5.9)	10.2 (0.09)	0.6 (0.16) ⬤
Israel	11 (2.5)	506 (13.7)	53 (4.1)	546 (5.3)	36 (3.9)	515 (7.1)	10.0 (0.16)	-0.4 (0.21)
Malta	11 (0.1)	459 (4.7)	60 (0.1)	454 (2.2)	29 (0.1)	444 (3.0)	10.2 (0.00)	0.8 (0.01) ⬤
Finland	11 (2.7)	576 (5.3)	87 (3.0)	564 (2.1)	2 (1.2)	~ ~	11.3 (0.08)	0.3 (0.15)
Russian Federation	10 (2.1)	599 (6.9)	63 (2.9)	588 (2.5)	27 (2.6)	556 (5.1)	10.3 (0.10)	-0.1 (0.16)
Portugal	9 (3.2)	535 (4.4)	36 (3.8)	530 (4.4)	55 (3.8)	525 (3.0)	9.3 (0.17)	0.5 (0.21)
Italy	8 (2.2)	542 (7.6)	52 (4.4)	552 (3.0)	40 (4.6)	545 (4.0)	9.8 (0.16)	0.1 (0.19)
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	8 (2.1)	405 (27.3)	20 (3.6)	432 (13.3)	72 (4.1)	429 (4.6)	8.6 (0.17)	-0.2 (0.22)
Lithuania	8 (2.1)	555 (6.0)	66 (3.6)	552 (3.4)	26 (3.5)	536 (4.8)	10.3 (0.13)	0.2 (0.16)
Austria	8 (2.2)	552 (5.2)	18 (3.5)	553 (4.9)	74 (3.8)	537 (3.0)	8.8 (0.16)	0.3 (0.19)
Trinidad and Tobago	7 (2.3)	532 (13.1)	60 (4.5)	491 (5.1)	32 (4.2)	461 (6.5)	10.3 (0.15)	-0.2 (0.19)
South Africa r	7 (2.4)	338 (34.2)	59 (3.9)	317 (6.6)	34 (3.8)	318 (8.4)	10.0 (0.17)	r 0.3 (0.19)
France	6 (2.4)	512 (8.0)	85 (2.8)	514 (2.7)	8 (1.9)	482 (7.2)	10.8 (0.09)	-0.2 (0.13)
Australia	6 (1.4)	569 (7.8)	42 (3.1)	550 (4.7)	52 (3.2)	536 (3.3)	9.2 (0.12)	-0.1 (0.18)
New Zealand	5 (1.7)	523 (24.2)	51 (3.5)	545 (3.0)	44 (3.4)	502 (5.0)	9.4 (0.13)	0.3 (0.19)
Belgium (Flemish)	5 (1.9)	528 (5.1)	46 (4.7)	529 (3.0)	49 (4.7)	522 (3.8)	9.3 (0.18)	- -
Belgium (French)	3 (1.6)	512 (14.9)	72 (3.7)	503 (3.0)	25 (3.5)	481 (6.2)	10.1 (0.13)	0.2 (0.19)
Norway (5)	2 (1.4)	~ ~	67 (4.2)	561 (2.8)	31 (4.1)	554 (3.3)	9.8 (0.14)	- -
Hungary	2 (1.2)	~ ~	13 (3.1)	575 (11.0)	85 (3.4)	550 (3.3)	8.0 (0.13)	0.1 (0.15)
Netherlands	2 (1.3)	~ ~	64 (4.3)	549 (2.2)	35 (4.5)	540 (3.9)	9.9 (0.12)	r 0.2 (0.16)
Slovak Republic	0 (0.2)	~ ~	30 (4.1)	548 (4.3)	70 (4.1)	529 (4.8)	8.5 (0.10)	0.1 (0.14)
Slovenia	0 (0.0)	~ ~	47 (4.7)	547 (3.3)	53 (4.7)	539 (3.0)	9.1 (0.11)	-0.1 (0.16)
Czech Republic	0 (0.0)	~ ~	29 (4.0)	550 (4.0)	71 (4.0)	541 (2.6)	8.6 (0.10)	0.2 (0.14)
Germany	0 (0.0)	~ ~	29 (3.2)	552 (3.9)	71 (3.2)	530 (4.9)	8.5 (0.09)	-0.2 (0.13)
International Avg.	22 (0.4)	516 (1.6)	47 (0.5)	512 (0.8)	31 (0.4)	491 (1.0)		

Significantly higher than 2011 ⬤
Significantly lower than 2011 ⬇

This PIRLS questionnaire scale was established in 2011 based on the combined response distribution of all countries that participated in PIRLS 2011. To provide a point of reference for country comparisons, the scale centerpoint of 10 was located at the mean of the combined distribution. The units of the scale were chosen so that 2 scale score points corresponded to the standard deviation of the distribution.

( ) Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.
A dash (-) indicates comparable data are not available. A tilde (~) indicates insufficient data to report achievement.
An "r" indicates data are available for at least 70% but less than 85% of the students.

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Exhibit 5.3: Schools Where Students Enter the Primary Grades with Literacy Skills (Continued)

Country	Schools Where More than 75% Enter with Skills		Schools Where 25-75% Enter with Skills		Schools Where Less than 25% Enter with Skills		Average Scale Score	Difference in Average Scale Score from 2011
	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement		
Benchmarking Participants								
Madrid, Spain	77 (3.7)	553 (2.4)	23 (3.7)	535 (4.2)	0 (0.0)	~ ~	13.5 (0.10)	- -
Dubai, UAE	62 (0.3)	530 (2.4)	28 (0.3)	503 (3.4)	10 (0.1)	444 (4.4)	12.6 (0.01)	0.8 (0.03) ⬥
Andalusia, Spain	59 (3.5)	531 (2.5)	40 (3.6)	518 (3.1)	1 (0.9)	~ ~	12.7 (0.11)	0.7 (0.17) ⬥
Ontario, Canada	47 (5.1)	552 (4.8)	45 (4.8)	541 (4.1)	8 (2.4)	518 (11.4)	12.2 (0.17)	- -
Denmark (3)	36 (3.8)	506 (4.5)	59 (4.0)	499 (3.9)	5 (1.7)	493 (8.9)	11.9 (0.09)	- -
Abu Dhabi, UAE	26 (3.1)	472 (11.2)	52 (3.7)	403 (7.0)	22 (2.6)	373 (11.4)	10.9 (0.13)	0.1 (0.22)
Moscow City, Russian Fed.	14 (2.9)	615 (5.9)	79 (3.3)	613 (2.2)	7 (2.2)	596 (7.9)	11.2 (0.12)	- -
Buenos Aires, Argentina	8 (2.2)	497 (13.1)	66 (3.5)	493 (4.0)	26 (3.2)	444 (6.2)	10.4 (0.12)	- -
Quebec, Canada	8 (2.9)	560 (7.1)	74 (4.6)	550 (2.7)	18 (4.1)	536 (9.5)	10.7 (0.17)	- -
Eng/Afr/Zulu - RSA (5) r	5 (2.2)	503 (24.7)	66 (5.6)	400 (8.6)	29 (5.4)	417 (14.5)	10.1 (0.20)	- -
Norway (4)	2 (1.1)	~ ~	68 (4.1)	522 (2.2)	30 (4.1)	507 (3.6)	9.8 (0.13)	0.0 (0.18)

Significantly higher than 2011 ⬥
Significantly lower than 2011 ⬦

About how many of the students in your school can do the following when they begin the first grade of primary/elementary school?

More than 75%   51–75%   25–50%   Less than 25%

1) Recognize most of the letters of the alphabet -------------- ○ ── ○ ── ○ ── ○
2) Read some words -- ○ ── ○ ── ○ ── ○
3) Read sentences --- ○ ── ○ ── ○ ── ○
4) Read a story -- ○ ── ○ ── ○ ── ○
5) Write letters of the alphabet---------------------------------- ○ ── ○ ── ○ ── ○
6) Write some words --- ○ ── ○ ── ○ ── ○

More than 75% Enter with Skills   ← 25-75% Enter with Skills →   Less than 25% Enter with Skills
12.6   9.2

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