

Exhibit 6.6: Students' Sense of School Belonging

To develop the *Sense of School Belonging* scale, students were asked how much they agreed with five statements about their attitude toward school. Exhibit 6.6 presents students' very positive responses. On average, more than half (59%) had a **High** sense of belonging, 33 percent had **Some** sense of belonging, and only 8 percent of the fourth grade students had **Little** sense of belonging. A higher sense of school belonging was related to higher average reading achievement (518, 505, and 495, respectively).

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Students' Reports

Students were scored according to their agreement with five statements about their *Sense of School Belonging*. Students with a **High Sense of School Belonging** had a score on the scale of at least 9.7, which corresponds to their “agreeing a lot” to three of the five statements and “agreeing a little” to each of the other two statements, on average. Students with **Little Sense of School Belonging** had a score no higher than 7.3, which corresponds to their “disagreeing a little” to three of the five statements and “agreeing a little” to each of the other two statements, on average. All other students had **Some Sense of School Belonging**.

Country	High Sense of School Belonging		Some Sense of School Belonging		Little Sense of School Belonging		Average Scale Score
	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	
Egypt	87 (1.2)	331 (5.8)	12 (1.1)	335 (9.7)	2 (0.2)	~ ~	11.6 (0.08)
Kazakhstan	84 (0.8)	537 (2.5)	15 (0.7)	533 (3.5)	1 (0.2)	~ ~	11.4 (0.04)
Morocco	82 (1.1)	362 (4.4)	16 (1.0)	345 (5.7)	2 (0.2)	~ ~	11.4 (0.06)
Azerbaijan	82 (0.9)	480 (3.7)	16 (0.7)	458 (5.7)	2 (0.3)	~ ~	11.2 (0.05)
Portugal	82 (0.9)	532 (2.4)	15 (0.8)	511 (4.2)	3 (0.3)	510 (9.2)	11.2 (0.05)
Georgia	75 (1.0)	493 (3.0)	21 (0.8)	483 (3.7)	3 (0.4)	469 (9.3)	10.8 (0.06)
Bulgaria	74 (1.3)	551 (4.5)	22 (1.1)	557 (5.3)	4 (0.5)	547 (13.2)	10.8 (0.06)
Saudi Arabia	70 (1.6)	444 (4.3)	25 (1.3)	415 (5.4)	6 (0.6)	386 (10.1)	10.7 (0.08)
Oman	69 (1.1)	433 (3.4)	25 (0.9)	396 (3.6)	6 (0.4)	383 (6.9)	10.6 (0.06)
Spain	69 (0.8)	532 (1.4)	26 (0.7)	521 (3.6)	5 (0.3)	511 (4.5)	10.4 (0.03)
Norway (5)	69 (1.3)	565 (2.4)	27 (1.1)	550 (3.0)	4 (0.5)	530 (7.1)	10.4 (0.06)
Kuwait	66 (1.3)	404 (3.8)	28 (1.2)	385 (6.3)	7 (0.5)	366 (9.6)	10.4 (0.06)
Malta	64 (0.8)	465 (2.0)	29 (0.8)	436 (3.5)	7 (0.4)	411 (6.8)	10.3 (0.03)
Northern Ireland	63 (1.5)	575 (2.4)	30 (1.2)	554 (3.3)	7 (0.6)	520 (7.6)	10.2 (0.06)
Finland	63 (1.3)	574 (2.0)	32 (1.1)	558 (2.5)	5 (0.5)	526 (7.3)	10.2 (0.05)
New Zealand	62 (0.9)	532 (2.6)	31 (0.7)	514 (3.3)	6 (0.5)	497 (5.8)	10.2 (0.04)
Netherlands	62 (1.3)	552 (1.9)	32 (1.1)	539 (2.1)	7 (0.7)	512 (6.8)	10.1 (0.06)
Lithuania	61 (1.3)	554 (2.7)	34 (1.2)	542 (3.5)	5 (0.4)	532 (7.4)	10.1 (0.05)
Ireland	61 (1.4)	577 (2.5)	31 (1.0)	557 (3.4)	8 (0.8)	533 (5.7)	10.1 (0.06)
Chile	61 (1.2)	507 (2.7)	28 (0.9)	485 (4.1)	11 (0.6)	465 (5.4)	10.1 (0.06)
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	61 (1.6)	421 (4.8)	34 (1.4)	445 (4.4)	5 (0.4)	415 (10.7)	10.4 (0.08)
South Africa	59 (1.1)	331 (3.6)	31 (0.9)	314 (6.2)	9 (0.6)	300 (8.6)	10.2 (0.06)
Denmark	59 (1.4)	558 (2.4)	34 (1.1)	537 (3.0)	7 (0.6)	519 (5.2)	10.0 (0.06)
Sweden	58 (1.5)	563 (2.8)	35 (1.2)	549 (3.0)	7 (0.7)	533 (5.7)	10.0 (0.06)
Bahrain	58 (1.4)	461 (3.0)	33 (1.0)	435 (2.8)	10 (0.6)	415 (6.3)	10.0 (0.07)
Australia	57 (1.0)	554 (3.1)	33 (0.9)	537 (3.2)	10 (0.5)	517 (4.6)	9.9 (0.04)
Hungary	57 (1.5)	560 (3.4)	35 (1.2)	548 (3.5)	8 (0.8)	537 (5.7)	9.9 (0.06)
Canada	57 (0.9)	551 (2.1)	35 (0.8)	540 (2.5)	8 (0.4)	515 (3.8)	9.9 (0.04)
England	56 (1.4)	569 (2.1)	35 (1.0)	552 (2.3)	9 (0.7)	526 (4.5)	9.9 (0.06)
United Arab Emirates	56 (0.8)	473 (3.4)	34 (0.7)	433 (3.9)	10 (0.4)	406 (6.0)	10.0 (0.04)
Belgium (Flemish)	56 (1.2)	533 (2.2)	36 (1.0)	520 (2.6)	7 (0.5)	496 (4.6)	9.9 (0.05)
Italy	56 (1.2)	554 (2.3)	36 (1.0)	543 (2.7)	8 (0.5)	532 (4.3)	9.8 (0.05)
Russian Federation	54 (1.3)	582 (2.7)	40 (1.2)	582 (2.5)	6 (0.4)	572 (4.3)	9.8 (0.05)
Trinidad and Tobago	54 (1.8)	490 (3.9)	35 (1.4)	471 (4.3)	10 (0.8)	456 (6.6)	9.8 (0.08)
United States	54 (1.3)	562 (3.1)	34 (1.0)	544 (3.6)	13 (0.8)	526 (5.3)	9.8 (0.06)
Austria	52 (1.1)	547 (2.5)	38 (0.9)	537 (2.8)	10 (0.6)	524 (4.4)	9.7 (0.05)
Israel	51 (1.4)	529 (2.8)	35 (1.2)	534 (3.9)	15 (1.0)	536 (5.8)	9.6 (0.07)
Qatar	50 (0.8)	465 (2.0)	35 (0.7)	437 (3.0)	15 (0.6)	404 (3.5)	9.6 (0.04)
Slovak Republic	50 (1.1)	534 (4.6)	41 (1.0)	539 (3.1)	9 (0.6)	525 (4.8)	9.6 (0.05)
Latvia	49 (1.4)	560 (2.2)	43 (1.1)	559 (2.2)	8 (0.7)	538 (5.3)	9.6 (0.06)
Singapore	49 (0.9)	583 (3.5)	42 (0.8)	574 (3.3)	9 (0.4)	550 (4.9)	9.6 (0.04)
Germany	47 (1.7)	556 (2.7)	41 (1.2)	536 (3.9)	12 (0.7)	516 (6.3)	9.4 (0.07)
Slovenia	44 (1.4)	544 (2.7)	46 (1.2)	542 (2.4)	10 (0.9)	537 (4.1)	9.3 (0.05)
Belgium (French)	43 (1.3)	503 (3.0)	42 (1.1)	497 (3.0)	15 (1.0)	482 (4.1)	9.3 (0.06)
France	43 (1.6)	512 (2.7)	48 (1.2)	514 (2.6)	9 (0.8)	492 (5.1)	9.4 (0.05)
Czech Republic	42 (1.1)	547 (3.2)	48 (1.0)	545 (2.3)	9 (0.5)	525 (4.1)	9.3 (0.04)
Poland	42 (1.4)	562 (2.6)	46 (1.1)	569 (2.8)	12 (0.8)	560 (4.4)	9.3 (0.06)
Chinese Taipei	41 (1.3)	569 (2.3)	46 (1.1)	557 (2.5)	13 (0.6)	537 (3.7)	9.2 (0.05)
Macao SAR	37 (0.7)	557 (1.8)	50 (0.7)	541 (1.7)	13 (0.6)	532 (3.2)	9.1 (0.03)
Hong Kong SAR	35 (1.2)	580 (3.4)	48 (1.0)	567 (2.9)	17 (1.0)	553 (5.5)	8.9 (0.06)
International Avg.	59 (0.2)	518 (0.4)	33 (0.1)	505 (0.5)	8 (0.1)	495 (0.9)	

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

This PIRLS questionnaire scale was established in 2016 based on the combined response distribution of all countries that participated in PIRLS 2016. 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 tilde (~) indicates insufficient data to report achievement.

Exhibit 6.6: Students' Sense of School Belonging (Continued)

Country	High Sense of School Belonging		Some Sense of School Belonging		Little Sense of School Belonging		Average Scale Score
	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	
Benchmarking Participants							
Andalusia, Spain	71 (1.2)	528 (2.1)	23 (0.9)	519 (3.0)	6 (0.5)	509 (6.3)	10.5 (0.06)
Norway (4)	70 (1.2)	522 (2.4)	25 (0.9)	508 (3.7)	5 (0.5)	493 (5.9)	10.5 (0.05)
Madrid, Spain	69 (1.5)	551 (2.0)	26 (1.3)	547 (3.2)	5 (0.5)	531 (5.2)	10.4 (0.07)
Dubai, UAE	61 (0.8)	532 (1.9)	32 (0.7)	502 (2.8)	8 (0.3)	455 (6.0)	10.1 (0.04)
Eng/Afr/Zulu - RSA (5)	60 (1.7)	405 (5.1)	31 (1.2)	418 (9.1)	9 (1.0)	400 (12.5)	10.2 (0.08)
Denmark (3)	58 (1.3)	510 (2.9)	35 (1.1)	491 (3.9)	7 (0.5)	475 (7.1)	10.0 (0.06)
Ontario, Canada	53 (1.5)	554 (3.7)	38 (1.3)	539 (4.2)	9 (0.6)	514 (6.5)	9.8 (0.06)
Buenos Aires, Argentina	52 (1.1)	484 (3.4)	37 (0.8)	484 (3.7)	11 (0.7)	478 (5.8)	9.7 (0.05)
Quebec, Canada	51 (1.8)	553 (3.3)	40 (1.6)	545 (2.9)	8 (0.7)	527 (5.2)	9.7 (0.06)
Moscow City, Russian Fed.	50 (1.2)	616 (2.4)	42 (1.0)	611 (2.4)	8 (0.6)	597 (5.1)	9.6 (0.05)
Abu Dhabi, UAE	49 (1.6)	437 (5.3)	38 (1.2)	401 (5.9)	12 (0.9)	391 (9.0)	9.7 (0.07)

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

