

Notice for Secondary School Parents/Guardians**Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2019 in Hong Kong**

[Date]

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Your child's school has agreed to participate in the "Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2019 in Hong Kong" project conducted by the Faculty of Education of the University of Hong Kong and Policy 21 Limited. Your child is invited to take part in this educational research project.

TIMSS is an important educational research project investigating student achievement in mathematics and science. More than 60 countries and regions, including Hong Kong, are participating in this study. The study keeps us, as parents and citizens, informed about how our students in Hong Kong are performing in comparison to their peers in other countries and to compare programs of study and teaching practices. We will be able to obtain current national and international information which will help improve the teaching and learning of mathematics and science in our country.

In order to obtain such information for comparisons across times and across countries and regions, students in school are requested to:

- Answer an e-booklet containing mathematics and science questions (two 45-minute sessions)
- Complete a questionnaire on students' background and their learning experiences in mathematics and science (approximately 15 minutes)

All data obtained will only be used for this project. Strict confidentiality will be maintained. Participation in this project is voluntary and your child can withdraw from the project at any time without negative consequences. You may rest assured that your child's participation in this project will not affect his or her grade or progress in school. The name of your child will not appear in any publication. All the participating schools and students will have unique IDs and the data files will not contain any names of the participants. Linkage information will be only known to the research team. The computer files containing the information will be encrypted and password protected. They will be kept by the Hong Kong Centre of IEA Studies indefinitely. Printed lists and instruments will be kept under lock for five years at the Faculty of Education of the University of Hong Kong after the publication of the first paper.

We are writing to inform you about the study and express our gratitude to your child for participating in this project. If you do NOT wish to give consent, you are requested to make this known to the school. If you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school or the Project Manager, Miss Leung, at 3917-5055. If you wish to obtain further information about the rights of participants in research, please contact the Human Research Ethics Committee, the University of Hong Kong (2241-5267).

Thank you very much for your support to this research project.

Yours faithfully,

Professor Leung, Frederick Koon-Shing
The Hong Kong Centre for IEA Studies
Faculty of Education
The University of Hong Kong