

(Date)

Dear Principal,

Re: Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2019 in Hong Kong

Hong Kong is participating in the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2019. TIMSS 2019 is an important educational research project on student achievement in mathematics and science in over sixty educational systems around the world. It is designed to measure and interpret differences in national educational systems in order to help improve the teaching and learning of mathematics and science worldwide and in the local context.

Since 1995, Hong Kong has been participating in the study and I have been the Principal Investigator of this research and the National Research Coordinator of Hong Kong. It is conducted by the Hong Kong Centre for IEA Studies under the Faculty of Education of the University of Hong Kong. For this cycle, the study is conducted in collaboration with Policy 21 Limited. The analysis of trends will contribute to evaluating the effectiveness of the education reforms undertaken in recent years.

The sample for the study is drawn randomly from all schools in Hong Kong and your school has been selected to participate in the study. All classes in Primary 4 will be involved. The test will be completed in school within the period of **[April 23 – May 11, 2018]**. The testing instruments include tests with multiple-choice and open-ended questions on mathematics and science using an electronic platform, as well as a student questionnaire about the students' backgrounds and learning experiences in mathematics and science. The administration of the test, plus the time for administering the materials, reading instruction and having a break in between sessions, will take about two lessons' time, and the completion of the student questionnaire will take another lesson's time. There will be a home questionnaire covering information on home backgrounds and home learning environment, which is to be completed by students' parents/guardians. It will take 15 minutes to complete. Mathematics and science teachers of these students will also be asked to complete a questionnaire about their backgrounds and educational practices. It will take about 20 minutes. Finally, there is a school questionnaire. The school questionnaire is addressed to the school principal regarding the issues on enrolment, school resources and administration. It will take 15 minutes to complete. The answers to these questionnaires will help draw a picture of our current school system.

To ensure confidentiality, no TIMSS results will be reported for individual students, teachers or schools in any of the publications, and all publications will refer only to aggregated data. Participating schools, teachers and students will have unique IDs, and the data files will not contain the names of the schools, teachers and students. 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. Participation is voluntary and participants can choose to stop at any time without negative consequences.

As the development of new and high technology is encouraged in Hong Kong, education in the areas of mathematics and science is essential to nurturing our students to meet the needs in the modern world. We highly value your support and look forward to your participation in this important study. Enclosed please find a reply form. It will be greatly appreciated if you could fill in the form and return it by fax before **[April 9, 2018]**. If you have any question, please do not hesitate to call me at 2859 2355, or Ms. Connie Leung at 3917 5055. For more information about the rights as a research participant, please contact the Human Research Ethics Committee, the University of Hong Kong (2241 5267).

Yours sincerely,

Frederick K. S. Leung (Professor)
National Research Coordinator of Hong Kong
The Hong Kong Centre for IEA Studies
Faculty of Education
The University of Hong Kong

To: Professor Frederick K. S. Leung
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Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study 2019 in Hong Kong

In reply to your invitation, our school _____

- ☐ will participate in the study, please contact our staff _____
at _____ (phone no.) and _____ (email).
- ☐ is considering the participation in the study. Please provide further information and contact our
staff _____ at _____ (phone no.) and
_____ (email).
- ☐ will not participate in the study. Please kindly specify the reason: _____

Yours sincerely,

School Principal