



# NEWS

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## **Kansas' 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Math and Science Performance Measured Globally for the First Time**

*Kansas students score well above international average*

**Topeka, KS (October 24, 2013)** – For the first time, Kansas is able to measure how its 8<sup>th</sup> grade students' performance in math and science stacks up against their counterparts across the globe. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) spearheaded efforts with the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) assessment programs to conduct the 2011 NAEP-TIMSS linking study. Thirty-eight countries and nine subnational education systems from various countries participated in the 2011 TIMSS assessment, while 52 states/jurisdictions participated in the 2011 NAEP assessment. The NAEP-TIMSS linking study used states' 2011 NAEP assessment scores to predict performance on the TIMSS.

For Kansas, the average linking score on TIMSS math was 534, well above the TIMSS average score of 500. Seven countries (Republic of Korea, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong SAR, Japan, Russian Federation and Quebec Canada) had average scale scores higher than Kansas and 39 countries had lower average scores. One country (Israel), recorded statistically the same average score as Kansas.

Kansas 8<sup>th</sup> graders performed equally as well in the area of science. The Kansas average linking score on TIMSS science was 524, again, well above the TIMSS average score of 500. Seven countries (Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Republic of Korea, Japan, Finland, Alberta Canada and Slovenia) had average scale scores higher than Kansas and 37 countries scored lower. Three countries (Russian Federation, Hong Kong SAR and England) had statistically the same average score.

Commented Education Commissioner Dr. Diane DeBacker, “We are committed to ensuring that students in Kansas are well prepared to compete in the global workplace and this study tells us we’re on track. I am extremely proud of the work of our teachers.”

**National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)** is an assessment program conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics to inform the public of what elementary and secondary students in the United States know and can do in various subject area, including mathematics and science. Since 1969, NAEP, also known as the Nation’s Report Card™, has been administered periodically to students at grades 4, 8 and 12 in order to report results for the nation, participating states and selected large urban school districts.

**Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)** is an international comparative study of student achievement developed and implemented by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement. Since 1995, TIMSS has assessed the mathematics and science knowledge and skills of students at grade 4 and 8. In addition to the United States, more than 50 countries and many subnational entities participate in TIMSS.