



PISA 2029 Assessment Delivery Platform Technical Requirements

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1. Introduction

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) has been a computer-based assessment (CBA) since 2015 and has been available as an online assessment since 2025.

This document provides participating countries and economies (Participants) with information about the PISA 2029 assessment platform and the requirements for devices that can be used with the online and/or offline CBA.

2. The PISA 2029 assessment platform

The PISA 2029 assessment platform, *ACER Assess*, will provide a CBA via secure, easy-to-use online delivery, supplemented by an offline delivery option for those Participants who require it. Participants can choose to use the offline delivery option for all schools, or only for schools where internet bandwidth is insufficient or unreliable (i.e. hybrid delivery).

All student assessment materials (tests and questionnaires) will be delivered online and offline with a consistent look, feel and functionality. This includes measures to minimise cheating, students being distracted by the internet or releasing items (measures such as loss of focus detection and warning pop-ups upon loss of browser focus). School and teacher questionnaires will be delivered online only.¹

Prior to the Field Trial, ACER will consult with Participants to confirm whether they will implement the PISA assessment using the online, offline, or hybrid delivery modes. For the Main Survey, Participants must use a delivery mode that has been tested during the Field Trial. Participants may trial more than one delivery mode during the Field Trial.

2.1 Online delivery

Where the bandwidth is sufficient, the CBA can be delivered online. *ACER Assess* uses Secure Sockets Layer (SSL)² to deliver assessments directly to students' web browsers, without plugins or other modifications to their devices.

Students simply access a URL and log in using the provided credentials. Both school-owned devices and BYOD (bring your own device) are fully supported (see section 2.3 for device specifications).

2.2 Offline delivery

The CBA can be delivered offline as a fallback option, where bandwidth is insufficient or unreliable. The offline application provides the same student experience as the online delivery.

Offline delivery for PISA 2029 will use a lightweight offline application installed on a device (a laptop or desktop computer) that acts as a server for the student devices to connect to. Students access a URL via the local network (e.g. the school's Ethernet or Wi-Fi, a laptop with a local server, or a portable Wi-Fi) and log in using the provided credentials. Both school-owned devices and BYOD are fully supported (see section 2.3 for device specifications). Students' responses will be encrypted and stored securely on the server device. At the end of each test administration, when a secure and stable internet connection is available, the host device must be synchronised with the main ACER server to transfer the data.

¹ The Parent Questionnaire, if a country/economy is participating in that optional module, is delivered online or on paper.

² Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) is an internet security protocol that ensures secure communication between applications or devices over a network, using encryption and authentication.

2.2.1 Requirements for the server device

The device used to host the offline application must be a laptop or desktop computer.

The following operating systems are supported for the devices used to host the appliance (all operating system versions must be actively supported by their vendor):

- Microsoft Windows
- macOS (not OS X)
- ChromeOS

Other operating systems may also be supported. National Centres (NCs) wishing to use an alternative operating system should discuss this with ACER as early as possible.

Full guidance regarding the setup will be provided to National Project Managers (NPMs) to utilise the offline option.

2.3 Technical requirements for student devices

ACER Assess (whether delivered online or offline) will be compatible with student devices that:

- run one of the supported web browsers
- support a 16:9 screen ratio and minimum resolution of 1366×768
- use an external keyboard.

This includes:

- desktop PCs
- laptop PCs
- Apple Mac
- Google Chromebook.

Tablets and mobile devices will not be supported.

Compatibility is ensured on the main operating systems (for versions that are actively supported by their vendor): Windows, macOS, Linux, Android.

2.3.1 Supported Web Browsers

The platform will support the main web rendering engines with browser **versions no more than 12 months old**:

- Chromium (Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge)
- Gecko (Mozilla Firefox)
- WebKit (Apple Safari)

2.4 Monitoring Delivery

NPMs will be provided access to test monitoring tools that enable them to monitor the administration of the PISA 2029 assessments in their country/economy, including receiving platform status updates. The monitoring tool will support the tracking of progress at the Participant, school and student levels, including:

- viewing the data by school break down
- exporting data to Excel

- a table view of each assigned assessment with login details. This will include student assessments, school questionnaire, and, if applicable, teacher and parent questionnaires.
- viewing data based on status (i.e. Assigned->Started->Completed).

3. Supporting assessment delivery implementation

In addition to providing the online and offline delivery options, ACER will provide further assistance to Participants in their efforts to administer the PISA 2029 assessment by:

- supplying a School Readiness Test
- providing a demonstration version of the assessment
- offering opportunities to consult on the logistics of implementing PISA 2029.

3.1 School Readiness Test

Ahead of the Field Trial and Main Survey, a School Readiness Test (SRT) will be provided to National Centres to enable them to assess school equipment and confirm that computers intended for use for administering the PISA 2029 assessment are correctly set up and ready for use. The School Readiness Test will be available in English and can be translated into other languages using Google Translate.

The School Readiness Test will provide diagnostic information specific to the point in time the check is run, including details on the local network, internet bandwidth, and the device and browser used. For offline delivery, Participants will be provided with the offline application pre-loaded with sample content to check the suitability of the devices and equipment to be used to deliver assessments offline. The results of the School Readiness Test will inform National Centres about each school's readiness to support either online or offline PISA administration.

3.2 Demonstration version of the assessment

Ahead of the Field Trial, a demonstration (demo) version of the PISA test (drawing on non-sensitive materials approved for public release) will be made available to National Centres to demonstrate the features and functionality of the assessment platform. The demo will be available in both online and offline versions.

This demo version will be provided alongside the School Readiness Test to enable schools to check that the platform runs on their computers. It will also be useful for National Centres, schools and test administrators to become familiar with the assessment platform.

3.3 Consultations around logistics

ACER will provide PISA 2029 Participants with opportunities to discuss solutions to local implementation challenges with other Participants and the Survey Operations team in the lead-up to the Field Trial and Main Survey. These opportunities for knowledge and experience sharing will be offered through both online forums (including PISA Connect and webinars) and in-person discussions at NPM meetings.