



ICILS

International Computer and Information Literacy Study

Information for parents and students

What is ICILS?

The International Computer and Information Literacy Study (ICILS) is the first international comparative study of approximately 20 countries.

The main purpose of ICILS is to determine how well Australian students are prepared for study, work and life in the information age, and how their performance compares with that of students in other participating countries.

ICILS will assess the outcomes of student computer and information literacy (CIL). CIL refers to an individual's ability to use computers to investigate, create, and communicate in order to participate effectively at home, at school, in the workplace, and in the community.

The assessment will measure and analyse differences in the CIL levels and computer use of Year 8 students. It will also collect information about the contexts in which students develop computer and information literacy within and outside of school.

The results from ICILS will be used by governments and policy-makers to improve students' computer and information literacy.

When will ICILS take place?

Students will complete the ICILS assessment within the testing period between **6 and 29 November 2013**.

The assessment will take place during school hours, at a day and time chosen by the school.

Who is involved?

In participating schools, twenty Year 8 students will be randomly selected to participate in ICILS.

The principal and a number of staff at the school will also be asked to complete a questionnaire which asks about school characteristics, as well as computing resources, policies, and practices regarding the use of CIL at the school.

What is involved?

Students will be asked to complete an assessment and questionnaire, which is conducted exclusively on computers.

The assessment of CIL focuses on real world uses and includes authentic, information literacy, management and communication tasks.

The questionnaire will collect information about aspects of students' background, their use of computer technology and attitudes towards the use of computer technology.

There is no need to do any special study or preparation for the assessment. However, students will be asked to identify and describe their parent(s)/ guardian(s) occupation, for eg. teacher – teaches secondary school students. The information about occupation is used to help describe the backgrounds of groups of students across the country. It would be useful to discuss occupation before the assessment.



Will the information remain confidential?

All data collected in ICILS will be kept strictly confidential as defined in the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).

No individual or school is identified in any report released from the assessment.

Further information

ICILS is jointly funded by the Australian, State and Territory Ministers of Education. The Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) is responsible for administering ICILS in Australia.

To obtain more information about ICILS, please contact the ICILS Project Team at ACER:

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