

## **International Assessments and Quality of Education**

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This presentation will provide a comparative overview of the purpose and methods of the three largest international educational assessment programs that are currently taking place around the world: TIMSS, PIRLS and PISA. It will also make brief mention of some additional international educational surveys that are being conducted such as the Civics Education Study (CivEd) and the Second International Technology in Education study (SITES). A summary of the methodological challenges that are faced by these programs will be presented and discussed. The presentation will conclude with an overview of some of the uses that are made of the information collected by these programs to improve quality of education, and a discussion of the additional uses that could be made of the information.