



Kópavogur, February 20th 2018

Dear parent/guardian,

Around the world, nations have increasingly sought to assess the state of their educational systems through participation in international programmes designed to provide an overview of the strengths and challenges of each country in the field of education. This March, the PISA assessment, a survey developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), will be administered in Iceland. It measures 15-year-old students' performance in reading, mathematics, and science, and also examines their stance on various subjects, their communication skills, and other factors relevant for their academic progress. Over 80 nations now participate in the PISA assessment, with Iceland having been on board from the start.

The results of the PISA assessment have been taken into consideration in Iceland, including through the launch of the *Þjóðarsáttmáli um læsi* ('National Charter for Reading'), which operates with the participation of all local authorities around the country, teacher and parent associations, and other stakeholders. In the context of the Charter, the PISA results showing how Icelandic students perform in reading will be used as a benchmark for measuring future outcomes.

We are sending this letter to inform you that **your child** is among those students participating in the PISA assessment this year.

The assessment and the accompanying questionnaire will take around three and a half hours to complete, including regular breaks. During that time, the students will complete a series of assignments testing their competence in reading comprehension, mathematics, and science. Following this, they will be asked to answer a questionnaire containing questions on their stance towards education, on their school and on their studying habits, in addition to standard questions on their background. The assessment will be conducted in the school's computer room and while it may stretch out over a number of days, each student will only attend one day of assessment. For further information on dates, please contact the headteacher of your child's school.

Answers given by students in the PISA assessment are stored anonymously and cannot be traced. The project has been notified to the Icelandic Data Protection Authority and registered as No S8193. If you do not wish your child to participate in this assessment, please fill in the form below and hand it in at the school office. However, if you consent to the participation of your child, no action is needed.

A brochure about PISA can be downloaded here: https://vefir.mms.is/flettibaekur/namsefni/PISA_2018. Further information about PISA can be found on the website of the Directorate of Education at: <https://mms.is/allt-um-pisa>.

Respectfully,

Arnór Guðmundsson
Director of the Directorate of Education

PISA – Directorate of Education – To be given to the relevant school's contact person for the PISA assessment

I do not want my child to participate in the OECD/PISA assessment in 2018:

Name of child: _____

School and year group: _____

Signed by parent/guardian: _____