

Exhibit 9.10: Frequency of Student Absences

Exhibit 9.10 contains students' reports about their absences from school. On average, many students (68%) reported that they were "never or almost never" absent. However, 17 percent reported monthly absences, 5 percent bi-weekly absences, and 10 percent weekly absences. Because coming to school is the foundation for having an opportunity to learn, it is not surprising that increases in frequency of being absent is highly related to decreases in average reading achievement, especially for the students absent as often as once every two weeks or more. Average reading achievement was 521 for students "never or almost never" absent, 509 for absent "once a month," 476 for absent "once every two weeks," and 459 for absent "once a week or more"—a 62-point difference between full attendance and regularly being absent.

Exhibit 9.10: Frequency of Student Absences

Students' Reports

Country	Never or Almost Never		Once a Month		Once Every Two Weeks		Once a Week or More	
	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement
Hong Kong SAR	89 (0.7)	573 (2.7)	8 (0.6)	558 (4.6)	1 (0.2)	~ ~	2 (0.3)	~ ~
Belgium (Flemish)	87 (0.7)	530 (1.8)	9 (0.5)	506 (5.0)	2 (0.2)	~ ~	2 (0.3)	~ ~
Portugal	86 (0.7)	531 (2.5)	7 (0.5)	523 (5.2)	2 (0.3)	~ ~	5 (0.4)	483 (6.1)
Spain	85 (0.5)	532 (1.6)	7 (0.4)	522 (3.7)	3 (0.2)	510 (5.7)	5 (0.3)	482 (7.3)
Chinese Taipei	83 (0.7)	567 (2.1)	10 (0.5)	549 (3.5)	2 (0.2)	~ ~	6 (0.5)	481 (5.2)
Lithuania	82 (0.7)	552 (2.5)	10 (0.7)	553 (5.6)	2 (0.2)	~ ~	6 (0.6)	495 (7.6)
Germany	82 (0.7)	548 (2.9)	10 (0.5)	534 (5.6)	3 (0.3)	516 (7.8)	5 (0.4)	482 (7.4)
France	82 (0.8)	517 (2.2)	10 (0.5)	505 (4.9)	3 (0.4)	479 (7.5)	5 (0.4)	461 (5.0)
Austria	82 (0.7)	545 (2.2)	11 (0.6)	541 (4.9)	2 (0.3)	~ ~	5 (0.4)	479 (5.6)
Russian Federation	82 (0.8)	584 (2.3)	11 (0.6)	580 (3.7)	3 (0.3)	564 (8.0)	5 (0.3)	531 (6.0)
Belgium (French)	82 (0.7)	503 (2.6)	9 (0.5)	490 (4.7)	3 (0.3)	466 (7.7)	7 (0.5)	457 (4.7)
Netherlands	82 (0.9)	549 (1.6)	11 (0.6)	542 (4.8)	2 (0.2)	~ ~	6 (0.5)	499 (7.0)
Macao SAR	82 (0.7)	551 (1.1)	13 (0.6)	536 (3.5)	2 (0.2)	~ ~	4 (0.3)	474 (6.6)
Singapore	79 (0.8)	588 (2.7)	12 (0.5)	560 (4.1)	2 (0.2)	~ ~	6 (0.5)	481 (5.6)
Malta	79 (0.7)	465 (1.7)	10 (0.5)	437 (5.4)	3 (0.3)	374 (13.0)	8 (0.5)	392 (5.9)
England	76 (0.7)	566 (1.8)	17 (0.5)	552 (3.4)	3 (0.2)	516 (7.8)	4 (0.3)	483 (7.5)
Norway (5)	76 (0.8)	562 (2.4)	17 (0.7)	552 (3.9)	3 (0.2)	561 (7.0)	4 (0.4)	528 (6.2)
Sweden	75 (1.0)	560 (2.4)	18 (0.8)	553 (3.6)	4 (0.4)	535 (6.8)	4 (0.4)	507 (7.9)
Northern Ireland	75 (1.0)	577 (2.4)	18 (0.8)	548 (3.5)	3 (0.4)	525 (8.3)	4 (0.4)	462 (8.7)
Ireland	71 (1.0)	577 (2.3)	21 (0.9)	556 (3.8)	3 (0.5)	522 (8.5)	5 (0.4)	489 (6.2)
Slovenia	71 (0.9)	548 (2.3)	17 (0.8)	548 (3.1)	5 (0.4)	524 (5.7)	8 (0.6)	496 (6.3)
United States	71 (0.9)	556 (3.1)	16 (0.6)	561 (3.8)	5 (0.4)	532 (6.6)	8 (0.6)	490 (5.8)
Latvia	71 (1.0)	562 (1.9)	17 (1.0)	555 (3.7)	5 (0.5)	555 (5.8)	7 (0.6)	529 (4.7)
Italy	70 (0.8)	555 (2.2)	16 (0.7)	548 (3.4)	5 (0.4)	526 (6.9)	9 (0.6)	509 (4.6)
Canada	69 (0.7)	550 (1.8)	18 (0.6)	546 (3.1)	5 (0.3)	530 (5.5)	7 (0.4)	486 (4.5)
Oman	69 (0.9)	434 (3.4)	13 (0.7)	406 (5.8)	5 (0.3)	363 (7.0)	13 (0.5)	380 (4.8)
Denmark	69 (0.9)	551 (2.1)	21 (0.8)	548 (4.0)	6 (0.4)	537 (6.1)	4 (0.4)	516 (7.7)
Morocco	69 (1.4)	372 (4.3)	14 (0.9)	340 (6.5)	5 (0.3)	321 (7.6)	12 (0.7)	325 (5.5)
Chile	66 (0.9)	499 (2.5)	11 (0.5)	507 (5.2)	7 (0.5)	493 (6.7)	16 (0.9)	468 (4.2)
Poland	66 (1.0)	574 (2.4)	19 (0.8)	560 (3.6)	6 (0.3)	541 (5.6)	9 (0.5)	520 (5.1)
Bulgaria	66 (1.4)	566 (3.4)	13 (0.7)	542 (6.3)	13 (0.7)	536 (8.0)	9 (0.8)	484 (7.3)
Australia	65 (1.0)	551 (2.5)	22 (0.8)	553 (3.1)	6 (0.3)	529 (6.8)	6 (0.5)	467 (6.2)
Israel	65 (1.0)	547 (2.6)	17 (0.7)	531 (4.7)	6 (0.4)	494 (10.9)	12 (0.6)	464 (4.8)
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	64 (1.5)	441 (3.8)	20 (1.1)	424 (8.8)	4 (0.4)	389 (11.3)	12 (0.7)	386 (7.0)
Kazakhstan	63 (1.2)	544 (2.6)	18 (0.9)	539 (3.2)	4 (0.3)	519 (5.7)	15 (0.7)	506 (4.0)
New Zealand	61 (0.9)	537 (2.2)	22 (0.9)	537 (3.7)	7 (0.4)	496 (5.1)	10 (0.6)	456 (5.6)
United Arab Emirates	60 (0.8)	474 (3.2)	16 (0.5)	453 (4.9)	7 (0.3)	391 (6.0)	17 (0.6)	398 (4.2)
Bahrain	59 (1.0)	464 (2.6)	16 (0.8)	450 (3.8)	6 (0.4)	410 (6.4)	19 (0.9)	402 (4.3)
Trinidad and Tobago	57 (1.2)	493 (3.7)	11 (0.6)	494 (5.4)	9 (0.6)	457 (5.7)	23 (1.0)	445 (4.6)
Qatar	57 (1.0)	469 (2.1)	16 (0.5)	442 (3.5)	8 (0.4)	393 (6.3)	19 (0.7)	392 (4.3)
Finland	56 (1.0)	575 (1.8)	36 (0.8)	562 (2.6)	5 (0.4)	547 (5.4)	3 (0.4)	503 (7.5)
Azerbaijan	55 (1.7)	483 (4.5)	24 (1.5)	478 (4.4)	6 (0.5)	441 (7.8)	15 (0.7)	441 (5.5)
Saudi Arabia	51 (1.4)	448 (4.3)	15 (0.8)	438 (6.9)	9 (0.6)	418 (8.4)	25 (1.1)	405 (5.2)
Czech Republic	51 (0.9)	552 (2.2)	33 (0.8)	546 (2.0)	7 (0.4)	532 (5.6)	9 (0.5)	495 (5.7)
South Africa	51 (1.2)	342 (5.2)	12 (0.7)	321 (6.1)	9 (0.4)	276 (5.8)	28 (0.9)	299 (4.7)
Hungary	50 (1.6)	569 (2.8)	35 (1.3)	554 (3.2)	6 (0.5)	518 (5.9)	8 (0.7)	489 (6.8)
Kuwait	50 (1.5)	415 (4.4)	18 (1.4)	388 (7.7)	9 (0.7)	361 (8.1)	23 (1.1)	374 (6.0)
Georgia	44 (1.3)	504 (3.2)	26 (1.1)	494 (3.3)	9 (0.5)	471 (6.0)	21 (0.8)	462 (4.3)
Slovak Republic	43 (1.3)	555 (3.2)	34 (1.0)	540 (3.0)	9 (0.5)	514 (8.6)	14 (0.7)	476 (6.6)
Egypt	41 (1.7)	348 (5.4)	22 (1.6)	330 (8.1)	10 (0.6)	325 (9.5)	27 (1.7)	314 (8.9)
International Avg.	68 (0.1)	521 (0.4)	17 (0.1)	509 (0.7)	5 (0.1)	476 (1.2)	10 (0.1)	459 (0.9)

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent. A tilde (~) indicates insufficient data to report achievement.

Exhibit 9.10: Frequency of Student Absences (Continued)

Country	Never or Almost Never		Once a Month		Once Every Two Weeks		Once a Week or More	
	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement	Percent of Students	Average Achievement
Benchmarking Participants								
Madrid, Spain	86 (0.7)	552 (2.1)	7 (0.5)	545 (4.6)	3 (0.3)	527 (6.9)	4 (0.4)	506 (6.1)
Andalusia, Spain	85 (0.7)	529 (1.9)	6 (0.5)	512 (7.0)	2 (0.2)	~ ~	6 (0.5)	481 (6.1)
Quebec, Canada	80 (1.0)	551 (2.9)	13 (0.7)	543 (5.2)	3 (0.4)	537 (9.2)	4 (0.4)	504 (7.8)
Moscow City, Russian Fed.	80 (0.8)	613 (2.2)	13 (0.6)	613 (3.9)	3 (0.4)	621 (5.4)	3 (0.3)	566 (7.6)
Norway (4)	77 (0.7)	522 (2.2)	14 (0.7)	516 (3.7)	3 (0.3)	500 (5.8)	6 (0.4)	469 (5.3)
Denmark (3)	73 (0.9)	507 (3.3)	17 (0.9)	495 (4.2)	5 (0.4)	478 (6.6)	4 (0.4)	451 (7.9)
Buenos Aires, Argentina	67 (1.0)	490 (3.0)	10 (0.4)	481 (6.4)	7 (0.4)	473 (8.3)	16 (0.8)	448 (4.9)
Ontario, Canada	66 (1.4)	549 (2.9)	20 (1.2)	552 (5.3)	6 (0.5)	528 (9.2)	8 (0.6)	493 (6.8)
Dubai, UAE	64 (0.9)	532 (2.1)	17 (0.6)	521 (3.6)	6 (0.3)	477 (10.7)	14 (0.9)	452 (5.9)
Eng/Afr/Zulu - RSA (5)	60 (1.5)	427 (6.4)	12 (0.8)	403 (7.7)	6 (0.5)	367 (9.2)	21 (1.2)	372 (6.6)
Abu Dhabi, UAE	55 (1.3)	444 (4.9)	17 (0.8)	412 (7.7)	8 (0.6)	350 (8.7)	20 (0.9)	369 (5.5)

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016