

What is a standardization study?

Standardization is the phase of data collection in a study where the assessment is administered under uniform conditions across administrations to ensure consistency and comparability of results across test-takers; the collection of data in this manner enables the development of population norms. The sample collected during the standardization phase is stratified to reflect the full scale of cognitive abilities of Canadians—including participants with intellectual disabilities and individuals identified as gifted. An important part of standardizing the newest version of an assessment is to ensure that individuals of all ability levels and skills are represented in the standardization sample to enable the final assessment to be representative of the full range of ability.

How do I know if my affiliated organization is eligible to sign up as a partner?

If your organization has access to a specific population—whether individuals with intellectual disabilities, older adults, Indigenous Peoples, young adults, gifted individuals, people of low socioeconomic status, or other unique groups—we invite you to sign up. A member of the Pearson Research Team will follow up to learn more about your network and determine participant eligibility in your organization based on the inclusion criteria for the WISC 6^{CDN} study.

Why do you want my affiliated organization to participate?

The purpose of this study is to “test the test”. The WISC 6^{CDN} was originally developed in the United States, therefore, we need to evaluate how it works within the Canadian population. To do this, we need people of various ages, ethnicities, socioeconomic backgrounds, and cognitive abilities from across Canada to take the test. This will allow us to understand how people typically perform on the WISC 6^{CDN}. The results of this study will be used to create the final version of the WISC 6^{CDN}, which will subsequently help clinicians and other professionals with accuracy in assessing ability and determining diagnoses. Partnering with organizations is essential to ensure we can connect with the full range of individuals of varying ages, ethnicities, and abilities across the population to ensure the final assessment is representative of the Canadian population as a whole.

What role will the staff at my organization play?

As a Data Collection Partner, your role would simply be to distribute the study recruitment material to interested individuals, family members, or caregivers. This can be done in whatever way is most convenient for you (for example, email, printed handouts, or a notice board). We are happy to provide both digital and printed copies.

After the study information is shared, our research team will take care of all next steps, including answering questions, clearly explaining the study, and scheduling appointments directly with participants (or with a family member, if preferred). No additional administrative work will be required of your organization staff, nor are any physical space or resources.

Will my affiliated organization be paid for their partnership?

The Data Collection Partner site will receive financial compensation for each eligible participant recruited through your site who participates in the study. The payment will be sent via direct deposit to the organization as a lump sum at the end of the study. We can be flexible with the form of compensation, for example an honorarium or a donation, as we want to support our partner organizations in the way that best suits their site needs. Specific details for your organization can be discussed upon sign-up. Active communication and reporting will also be established with the partner and a Pearson Research Team member for any updates once signed up and will be maintained throughout the study.

What will participants be asked to do?

Each eligible participant will be asked to perform a variety of tasks including solving puzzles, recalling numbers, defining words, and answering questions about the world; all the tasks in this assessment will be age-appropriate. Some of the tasks will be easy for participants, while others will be more challenging. There is no expectation that every item be completed. The Examiner who will administer the test can provide participants with further details about these tasks if there are questions.

How will participants be paid for their participation?

Participants will receive financial compensation for participating in the WISC 6^{CDN} study. Funds will be issued via an electronic gift card, sent to the email address provided on the study's Parent/Guardian Consent Form. This amount is intended to recognize the time and effort dedicated to completing the assessment.

How long will the test take?

Testing may take between 2 and 3 hours to complete, depending on the Participant's age, ability level, and test-taking style. Participants may also be invited to complete additional assessments, but these can be completed separately from the WISC 6^{CDN} session. Participants will be compensated for completing these additional assessments.

Where will the testing session(s) take place?

The Examiner who will administer the test will contact the Participant's Parent/Guardian (or Support Person, where appropriate) to schedule a time and place for the test session(s). The testing location is decided upon both parties' preferences and comfort levels. This might be at the partner site (if this is appropriate and available at your organization), in the Participant's home, or in a public space (e.g., local library or community center). The assessment environment must be quiet and free from distraction.

Who will conduct the test sessions?

The assessment will be administered by a trained examiner. The Examiner will be a:

- Registered psychologist or psychological professional; or
- Certified Educator or education professional; or
- Supervised psychology master's, doctoral, or post-graduate student

The Examiner will have all the materials needed for completing the assessment.

Will participants receive their test results?

We cannot share the WISC 6^{CDN} test results (or other assessment test results, if additional testing was completed in relation to the WISC 6^{CDN}). This is because the test is still being developed and the data being collected is for research purposes only; the results from the participant's participation will be used to select items for the final version of the assessment tool. However, these results are not obtained within a formal clinical evaluation scenario, which is necessary for proper use and interpretation of test scores. When the product is published, professionals (e.g., psychologists, occupational therapists) will use this test to evaluate the cognitive abilities of children and adolescents.

How is data privacy handled?

All information, including previous assessment reports, medical documents, institutional letters, etc., provided to Pearson will be kept strictly confidential and will only be used for research purposes. We do not sell or give any of participant information to any outside groups. All personally identifiable information (PII), for example, date of birth and address, will only be handled by the Pearson Canada Research Team. We take precautions and employ security safeguards to protect personal information from loss, misuse, and unauthorized access, disclosure, alteration, or destruction. PII communicated digitally will be done so via secure, password-protected digital platforms. PII communicated on paper documents will be submitted to our Pearson Canada Assessment office in Toronto, where it will be securely stored. We will retain data collected as is required for research purposes, subject to regulatory retention requirements and our document retention policies.

Are there any risks associated with participation in this study?

There are no expected physical or psychological risks associated with participation in this study. Given that some tasks will be harder or more challenging components, there is a chance the Participant may become tired or frustrated. However, the assessment is designed to mitigate this, and the Examiner will tailor the session according to individual abilities and stop tasks when appropriate. The Participant will also be able to take breaks during the session to reduce any fatigue. Pearson acknowledges certain populations are vulnerable—this study is not aimed at exploitation, but rather, at encouraging representation of our nation through participation.

What is the study schedule/timeline?

The data collection is planned to launch Spring 2026 and is expected to continue throughout 2026 and into 2027. If you register as a Data Collection Partner, you are not required to participate for the entire duration of the study; you can participate for as long as you are interested and/or available to during the study.

If you have any questions about the WISC 6^{CDN} study, please feel free to contact the Research Team weekdays from 9am–4:30pm EST via email (research.canada@pearson.com) or phone (+1 (647) 245–6067).