GOVERNMENT OF SHARJAH حكومة الشارقة

هيئة الشارقة للتعليم الخاص

SHARJAH PRIVATE EDUCATION AUTHORITY

IEA PIRLS 2026

Preparing Computers for PIRLS Instructions

IEA TIMSS & PIRLS BOSTON COLLEGE

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Introduction

As for any computerized assessment, it is necessary to test and prepare the allocated devices before the software containing the assessment can be presented to the participating students. This means checking that the computer requirements are clear and generally applicable in your country.

To assist you with checking that your devices are PIRLS compatible, programs designed to indicate whether each individual device fulfills the minimum requirements have been provided.

In addition, use the provided "PIRLS mini-player" to try whether the devices experience any issues. The achievement test mini-player is in English only and contains the student login screen and the student directions for the achievement test. The online version of the mini-player also tests the transition to the Student Questionnaire and has the compatibility test embedded.

About a month before the scheduled assessment administration, run the programs **and initiate the mini-player** on each available device. This will determine how many of the available devices are compatible for PIRLS. This applies to local school devices as well as any external devices provided to schools for PIRLS administration.

1 Compatibility Requirements

PIRLS is designed for a **screen resolution 1280x800 or 1366x768**. The **screen size minimum is 9.7 inches**, but we do not recommend using devices with screens smaller than 12 inches, which is the smallest usable laptop size. For the player to be displayed properly, it is critical that the operating system's overall scaling is set to default/recommended and the text size must be set to 100%. Each student also must have an **off-screen/external keyboard** and a power supply (ensuring sufficient charging of the device). Having an external mouse is optional.

Unless the assessment is administered online, the individual devices do not have to be connected to the Internet for PIRLS administration. However, an Internet connection will be necessary to upload the data later on. If it is convenient for schools to arrange a suitable Internet connection (by an Internet router brought in for the PIRLS administration) for each device, the assessment and Student Questionnaire can be administered online, where the data is saved and submitted automatically. For the PC/USB administration, a temporary Internet connection means the data may be uploaded from the devices used immediately following the test administration.

Minimum Requirements for Online Administration

In addition to the appropriate screen resolution, power supply, keyboard**,** and screen size, the online administration requires connection to the Internet for each device used and JavaScript to be enabled. It is recommended that the browser version is up-to-date or no more than two versions behind. It is strongly recommended to run the *PIRLS Player* and *Student Questionnaire* via the current version (all updates installed) of Google Chrome browser for online administration, as it is the most extensively tested browser.

The following operating systems are supported for online administration of PIRLS 2026 - Microsoft Windows 11; MacOS 14 or later; Android 13 or later; iOS 17 or later.

2 Testing Computers for PIRLS Compatibility

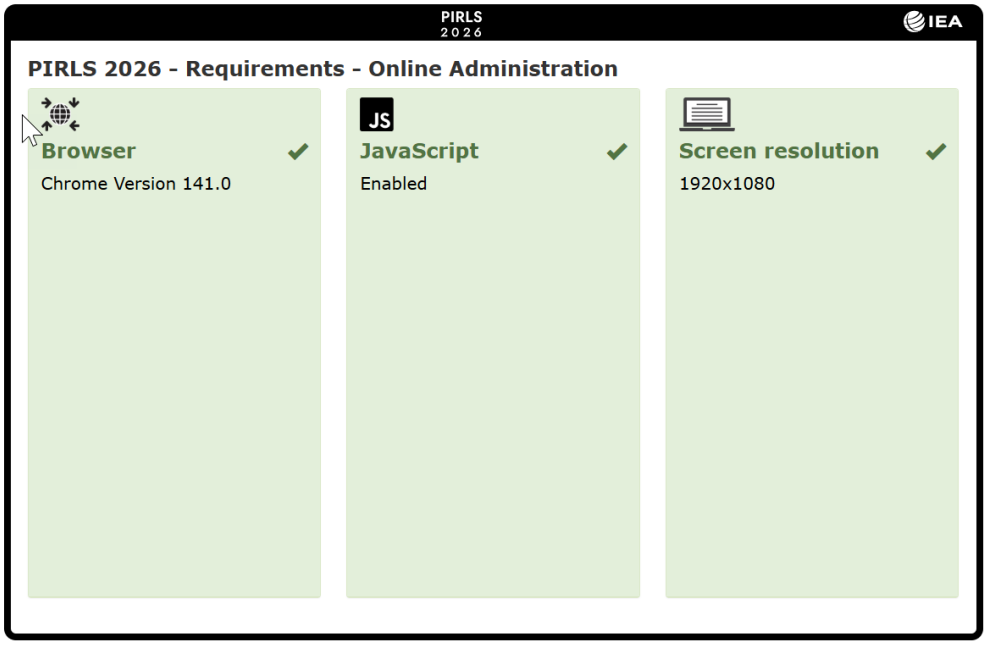
All devices used for PIRLS need to be tested for compatibility.

2.1. Testing Devices for the Online Administration Method

2.1.1. Compatibility Test for the PIRLS Player – Achievement Test

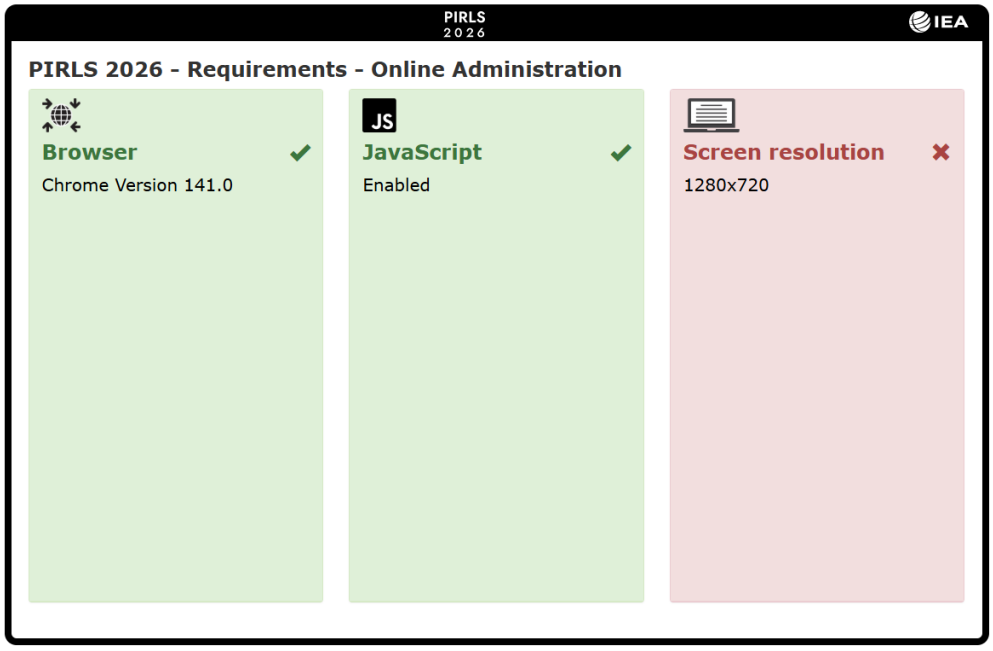
To test the allocated devices for compatibility for the *PIRLS Player*, you must run the test via the following URL:
https://pirls.am.rm.com/forms/show/id/2

Once the check is completed, the results will be displayed automatically, as in the example shown in the next screenshot.



The green background and check mark ✔ indicates compatibility, whereas a red background and cross ✖ indicates incompatibility of the particular configuration.

If any configuration receives the red background and cross mark for the device, as shown in the next screenshot, the device cannot be used for PIRLS administration unless it can be reconfigured.



If you recognize that the detected incompatibility is easy to adjust, you may choose to do that. For example, you can check whether the screen resolution is not compatible due to the operating system's overall scaling (display scale and layout is not set to default/recommended), which might affect the screen resolution test. After reconfiguring a device, run the test again. If the incompatibility remains, the device cannot be used for PIRLS administration.

The following table lists and explains the requirements checked by the *PIRLS Player* compatibility test for the online administration.

PIRLS 2026 – Requirements – Online Administration

Icon	Label	Description	Requirement
	Screen Resolution	The number of distinct pixels in each dimension that can be displayed on the monitor.	Minimum of 1280 * 800 / 1366 * 768
	Browser	The version of the Internet browser.	Latest updates strongly suggested
JS	JavaScript	A scripting programming language that runs on the web browser to make specific features on the web page functional. If JavaScript has been disabled within your browser, the content or the functionality of the web page can be limited or unavailable.	Enabled

2.1.2. Compatibility Test for the Online Student Questionnaire

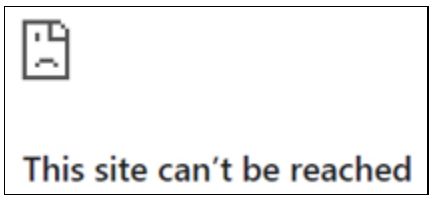
To test the allocated devices for compatibility for the *Student Questionnaire*, you must run the compatibility test via the following URL:

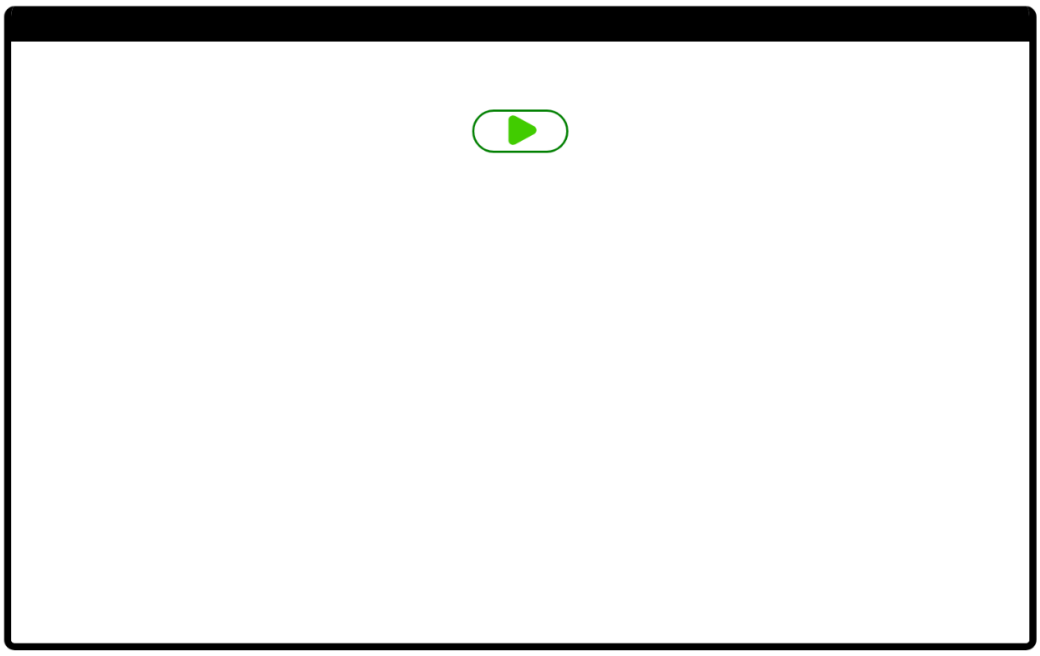
https://pirls.iea-online.net/test_compat/

This program checks whether the browser can render the questionnaire and whether data can be exchanged with the servers.

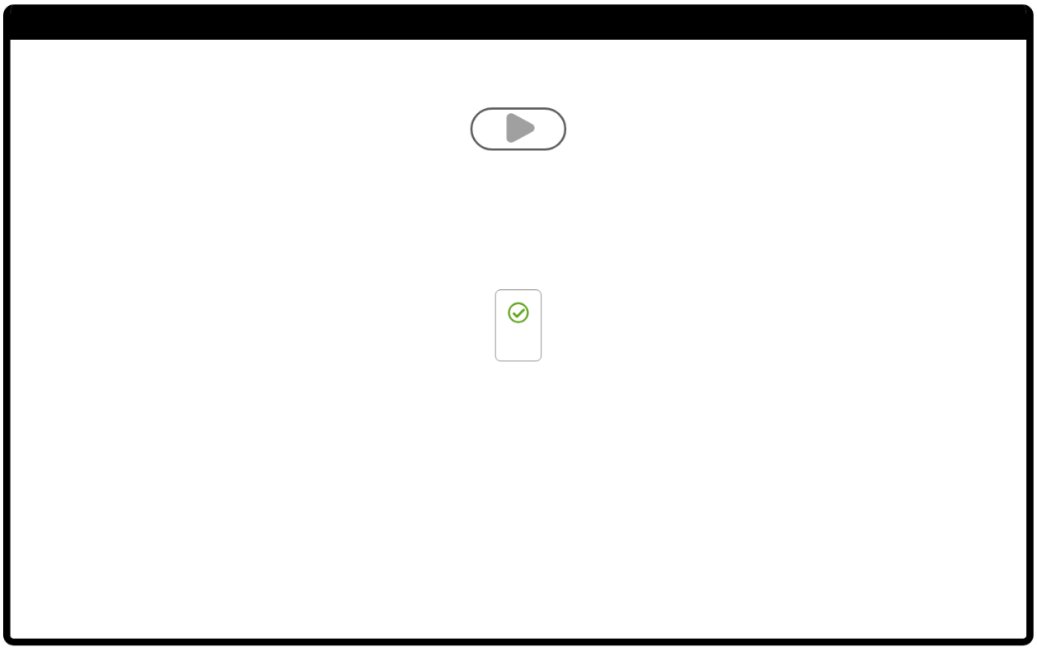
Once you open the URL in the browser (Google Chrome is strongly recommended), the window shown in the next screenshot will open. Click on the **Play** button.

If a window appears displaying a "This site can't be reached" message, as shown in the next screenshot, the device might not be connected to the Internet or the connection to the test server is being blocked by the firewall.

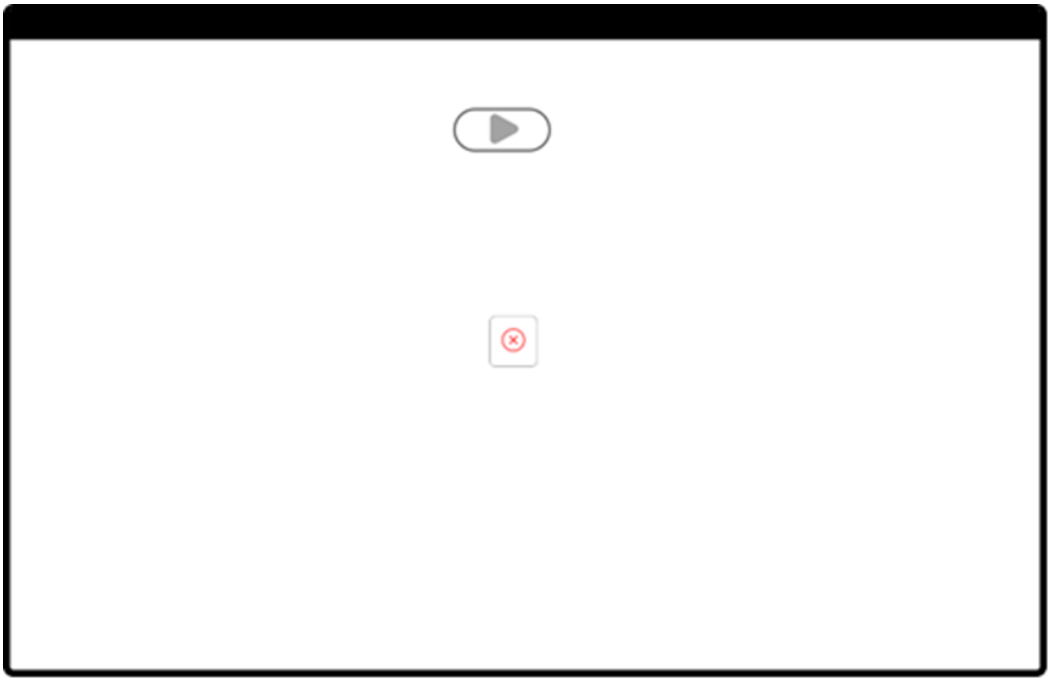




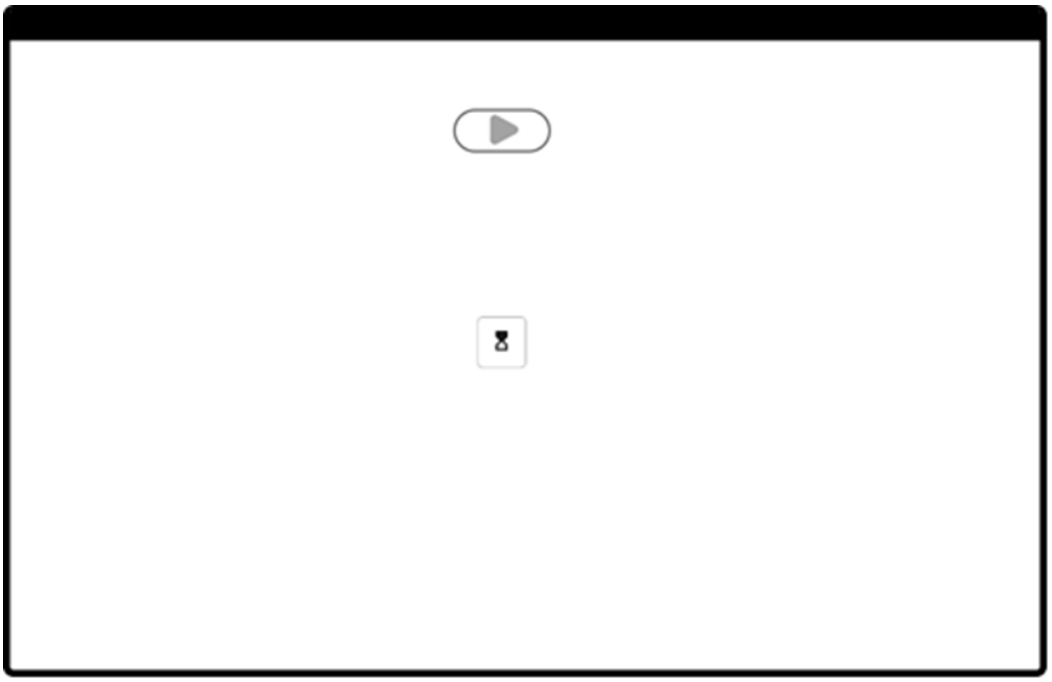
The green check mark indicates compatibility, as shown in the next screenshot.



If the test fails and the red X symbol is displayed, as shown in the next screenshot, it might mean that your device has lost the Internet connection while the test was running.



If the loading indicator symbol is displayed for an extended period (more than 2-3 minutes), as shown in the next screenshot, it might mean that the Internet connection is poor or the Internet speed is too slow.



2.2. Recording and Reporting the Results of the Compatibility Tests

Upon completing the *Compatibility Tests,* document the results by labeling the PIRLS compatible devices and marking devices that cannot be used for PIRLS. If local school computers that are stationary are used (e.g., computer lab), also document the location of each PIRLS compatible/incompatible computer (e.g., sketch a map of the computer lab). This will be very helpful in preparation for the testing session.

If local school computers are used, ask each school to inform you about the number of PIRLS compatible devices available. When you know how many devices are available for each school, you will know if all students listed on the Student Tracking Form can be tested at the same time; otherwise you might need to supply additional external computers for the testing session. If absolutely necessary, a school may organize more than one PIRLS session (for each participating class).

If portable devices are used (local school devices and/or external devices), make sure to coordinate with the school personnel to provide a desk and an easily accessible power outlet for each device that will be brought into the classroom. You might need to arrange several extension cords for this purpose.

3 Launching the “mini-player” on the PIRLS Compatible Devices

As an additional test, launch the provided *mini-player* on each PIRLS compatible device to check that it runs properly. The *mini-player* is in English only and contains the student login screen and the student directions for the achievement test. The online version will also test the transition to the *Student Questionnaire*, which also serves as a compatibility test.

The following login credentials are valid for the *mini-player*:

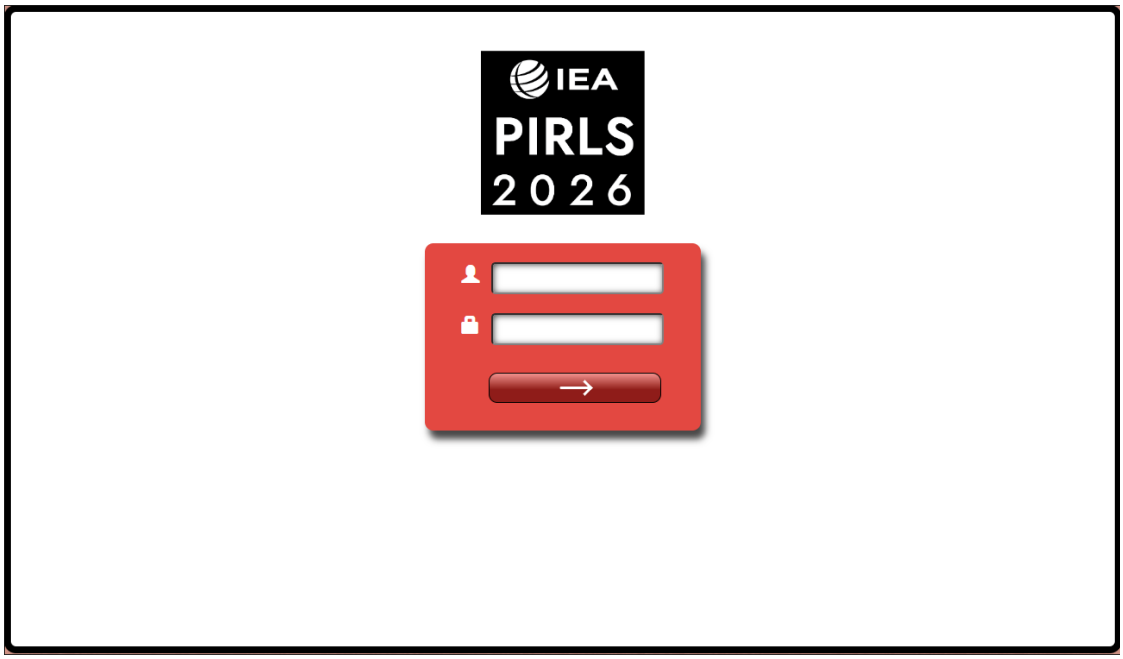
Student ID	Password
99930001	60998
99930002	60162
99930003	60846
99930004	60592
99930005	60395

To launch the "mini-player" via the online method, use the following URL:
https://pirls.am.rm.com/engine/index.php/lms/login/path/pirls

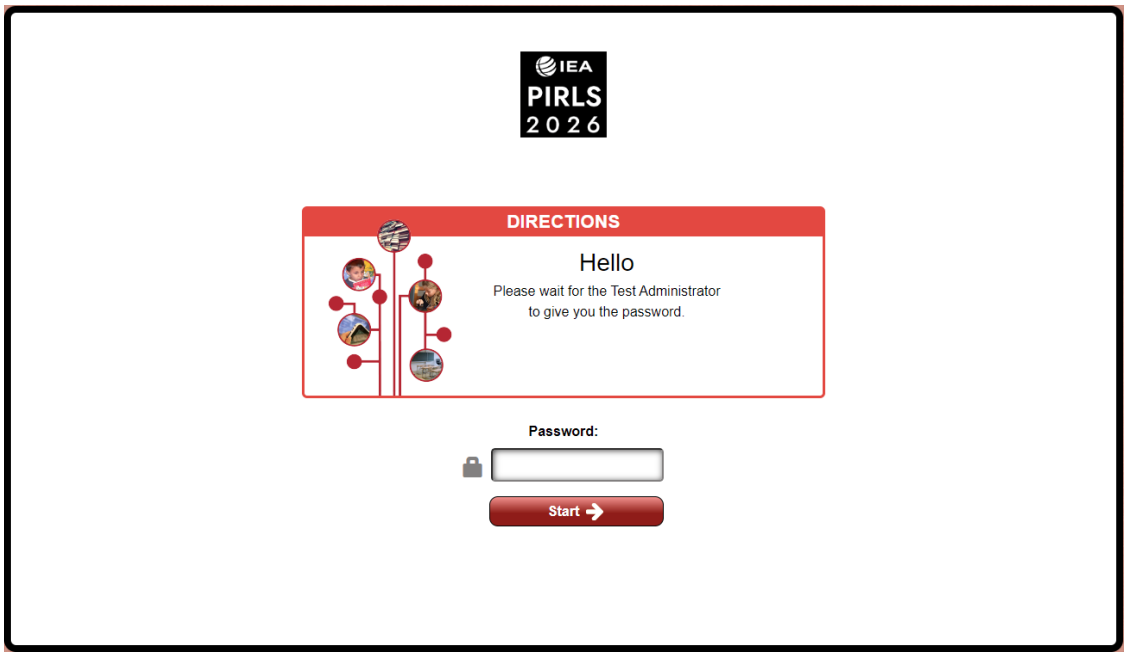
To launch the *mini-player* offline for the individual PC/USB method, plug in the USB stick containing the *mini-player* to a 2.0 or higher USB port on the computer, open it and navigate to the /mini-player/ folder to see the available files. Click on the *AssessmentMaster* application file to launch the program.

The **Student Login** window will open, as shown in the next screenshot. If necessary, press **F11** to activate full screen mode.

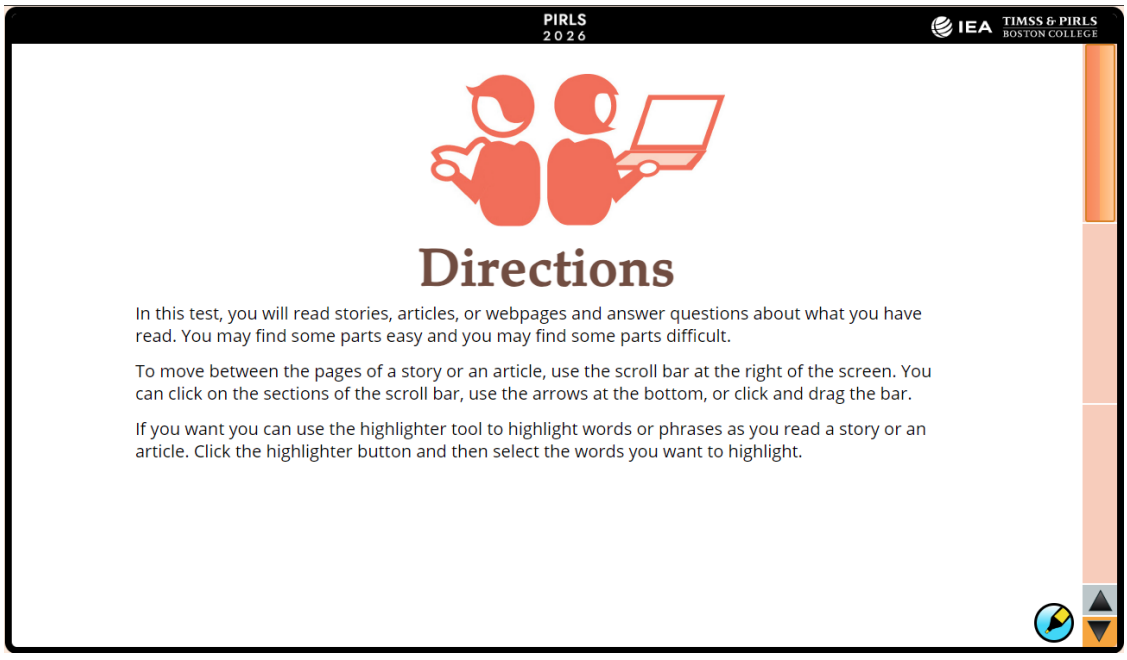
The field is for **Student ID** and the field is for the **Password**. Click on the **Arrow** button to continue.



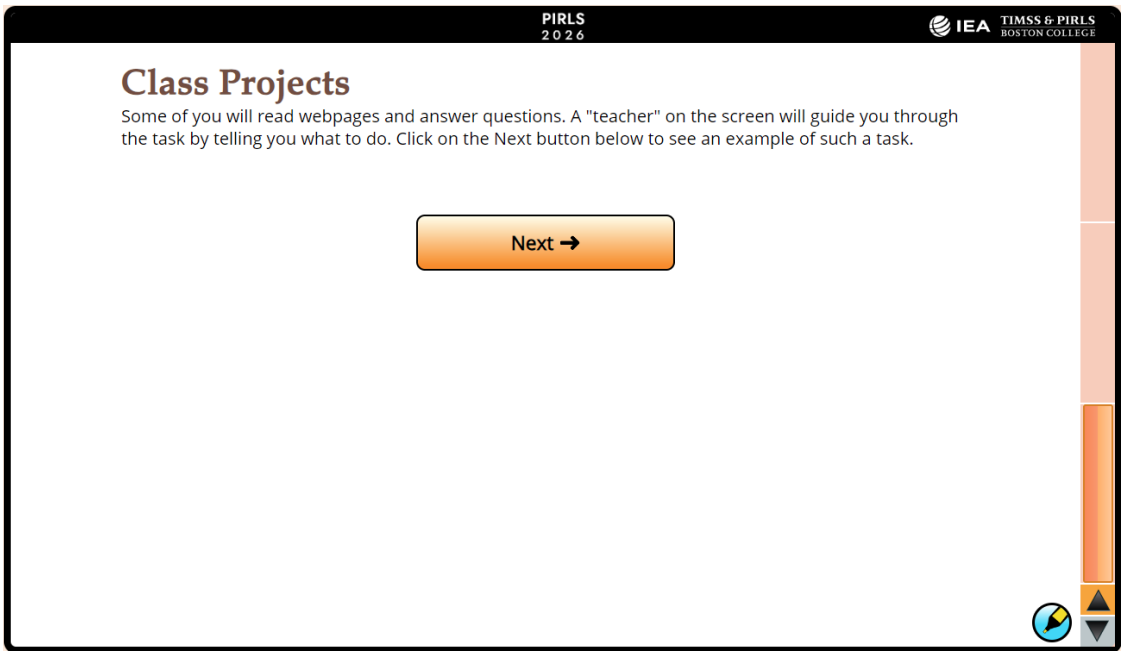
Once logged in, the **Directions** login window will open, as shown in the next screenshot.



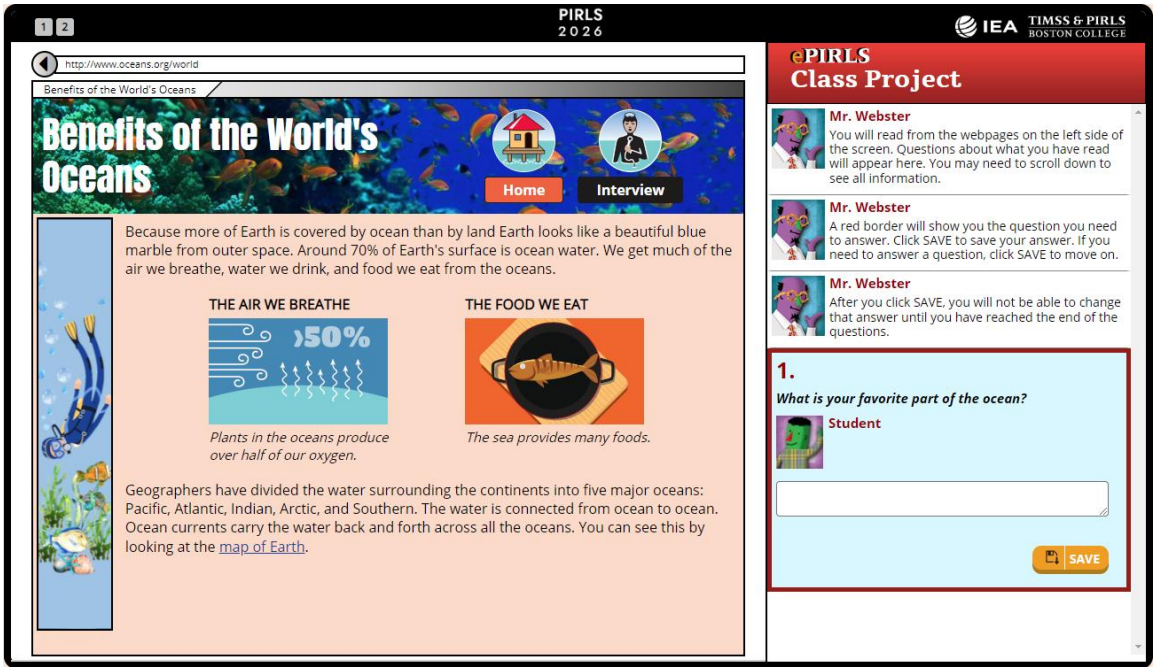
Enter **0000** as the **Password** and click on the **Start** button to continue to the Directions, as shown in the next screenshot.



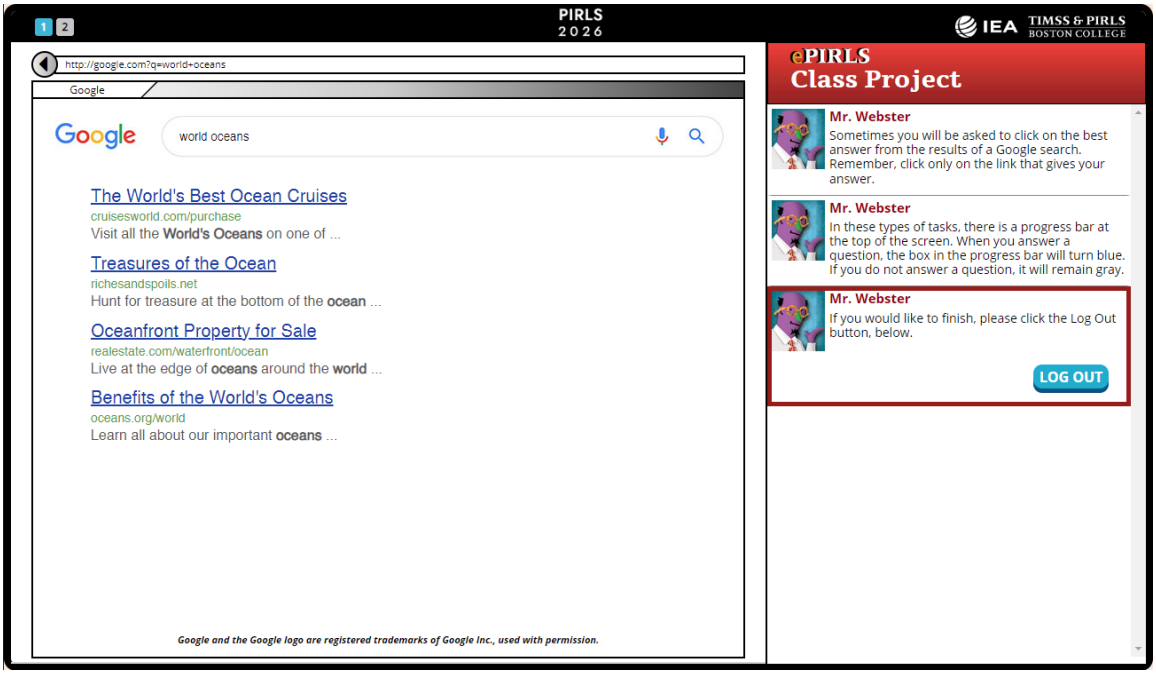
To move forward, use the scroll bar at the right of the screen and click on the sections of the separate sections. If you want to see the example questions, click on the middle section of the scroll bar and click on “Questions” at the bottom of the screen. Move through the questions by using the green arrows at the bottom of the Questions window. To skip the example questions, click on the last section of the scroll bar. A page that says “Class Projects” at the top will display, as shown in the next screenshot.



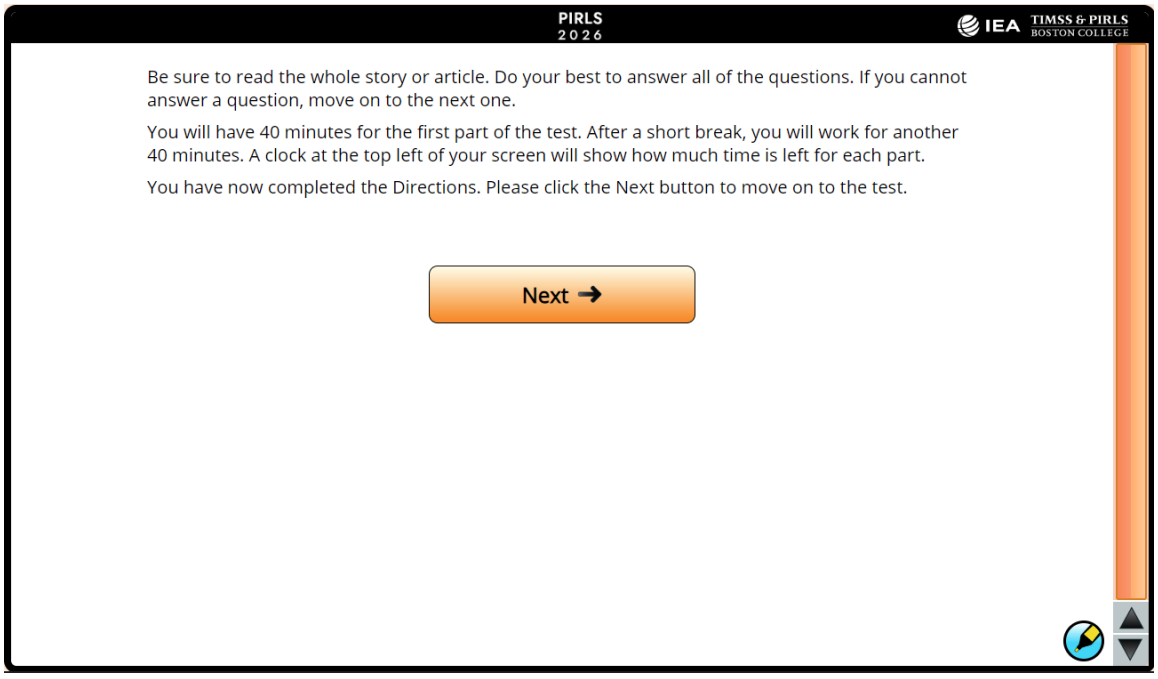
Click on the **Next** button to move forward. A page that shows a website called "Benefits of the World's Oceans" will open, as shown in the next screenshot.



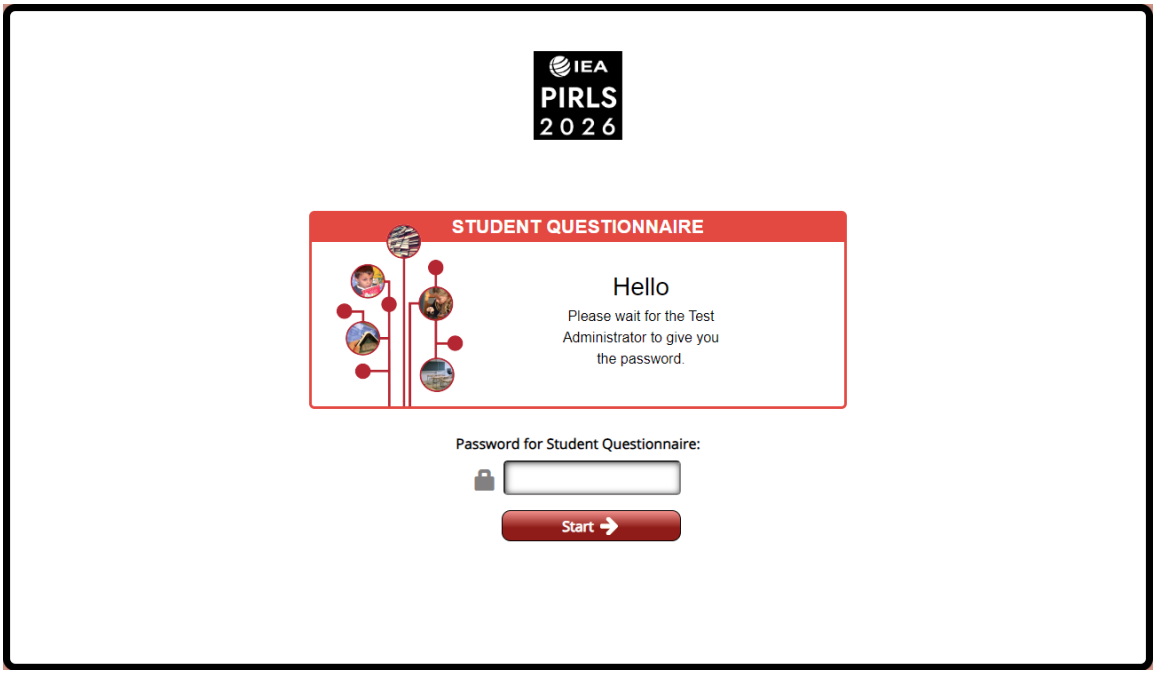
Click the **SAVE** button at the lower right corner to move forward. A page that shows Google search results will open, as shown in the next screenshot.



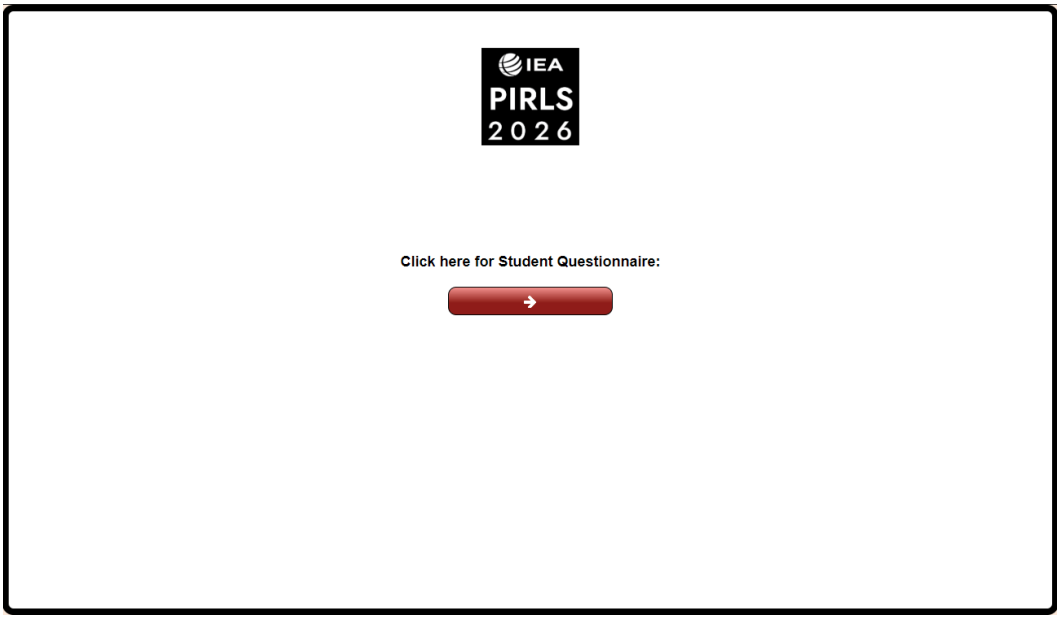
Click the **LOG OUT** button at the lower right corner to move forward. The last page of the Directions will open, as shown in the next screenshot.



Click the **Next** button to move forward. The program will display the **Student Questionnaire Login Screen**. Please enter password **1451** and click **Start** to move forward.

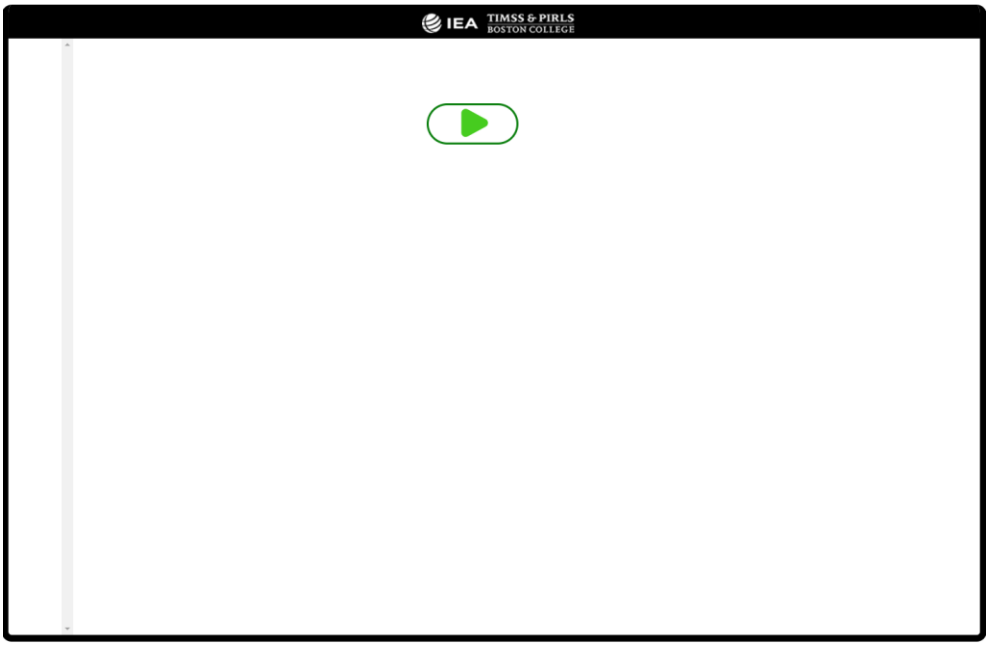


On the next screen, shown in the next screenshot, click on the arrow  button to continue.



If the offline version of the *mini-player* is used, the program will exit the browser. Press "Ctrl"+"Alt"+"Delete" key combination and open the Task Manager, then end the task run by Firefox. Alternatively, you can also press "Alt"+"F4" key combination to exit the program. Safely remove the USB from the computer.

If the online version of the *mini-player* is used, the program will connect to the compatibility test page of the *Student Questionnaire*, as shown in the next screenshot.



Run the test as described in Section 2.1.2 of this manual. Once ready, close both browser screens.

Should an issue with the automatic transition to the Student Questionnaire occur during the actual testing sessions, Test Administrators will be provided with the URL to be entered directly into the browser. This will then open the **Student Questionnaire Login** page and the Student ID and password would need to be entered again to access the questionnaire. However, should School Coordinators or other personnel testing the devices experience issues with the transition, please ask them to report the issues with screenshots or video to the International Assessments Department in KHDA.

Appendix: Troubleshooting

If available, ask for help from the IT staff at your school. This person will best know the configuration of your school systems and may be able most quickly to identify a likely cause. We also suggest that you consider the following possible solutions.

For Online Administration Issues

Check that the Internet connection is working and that you are able to browse to other external sites outside of the country you are in. It could be that the local school or wider network is blocking access or data transfers to or from the URL and you will need to work with the IT specialist to have the site whitelisted. Please do not whitelist the site using IP addresses as they are dynamic and subject to change.

If the same devices will be used more than once, make sure that the browser's autocomplete function is disabled. This is to prevent Student IDs and passwords from being filled in automatically from the previous testing session. To do this in Google Chrome, click on the three dots at the upper-right corner of the browser and select "Settings" and then "Autofill and passwords." Next, click on "Google Password Manager," select "Settings" and turn off "Offer to save passwords and passkeys" and "Sign in automatically."



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