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PURSUING EXCELLENCE

A STUDY OF U.S. FOURTH-GRADE
MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACHIEVEMENT
IN INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

Prepublication Copy
EMBARGOED until June 10, 1997, 11 a.m. EDT

INITIAL FINDINGS FROM THE
THIRD INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE STUDY

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Contributors:

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William Schmidt
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Trevor Williams

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U.S. Department of Education
Richard W. Riley
Secretary

**Office of Educational Research
and Improvement**
Ramon C. Cortines
Acting Assistant Secretary

**National Center for
Education Statistics**
Pascal D. Forgione, Jr.
Commissioner

**Data Development and Longitudinal
Studies Group**
Mary J. Frase
Acting Associate Commissioner

International Activities Program
Eugene Owen
Director

National Center for Education Statistics

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is the primary federal entity for collecting, analyzing, and reporting data related to education in the United States and other nations. It fulfills a congressional mandate to collect, collate, analyze, and report full and complete statistics on the condition of education in the United States; conduct and publish reports and specialized analyses of the meaning and significance of such statistics; assist state and local education agencies in improving their statistical systems; and review and report on education activities in foreign countries.

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June 1997

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