

## Partners in Learning School Research

We are happy to announce that [Partners in Learning School Research](#) is now available on the [Partners in Learning Network](#). A school in Canada started a survey and sent this feedback:

*"I spent some time this morning setting up a survey. I also did a test survey myself. I can tell you honestly that the process was significantly less cumbersome than the last version. It was certainly easy to navigate. I am going to wait until tomorrow when I have this survey set to close to see what the results look like...In the meantime, kudos to Microsoft on an excellent revamp to an amazing resource."*

### What is Microsoft Partners in Learning School Research (PILSR)?

PILSR provides individual schools with an online research tool to measure their own innovative teaching practices that develop the skills students need for life and work today. Based on globally-recognized research, the PILSR research tool is international in scope, enables school-specific measurement of innovative teaching, and provides a common language to drive community dialogue and systemic change – all at no cost to schools. **A sample report is attached.**

Overview page



The screenshot shows the Microsoft Partners in Learning School Research Overview page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with "Select language" and "Global Community Man...". Below this is the "Microsoft Partners in Learning" logo and a navigation menu with links for "resources", "hot topics", "community", "professional development", "For educators", and "For schools". The main heading is "PARTNERS IN LEARNING SCHOOL RESEARCH Overview".

The main content area features a section titled "What is School Research?" with the text: "Educators around the globe recognize that teaching and learning needs to be transformed to align with the realities of life and work in the 21st century. Today's learners need to develop higher order skills and know how to create and collaborate. At the same time, school leaders need to build their teachers' capacity to develop these skills in students." Below this text is a "set up survey" button.

On the right side, there is a box titled "ADDITIONAL RESOURCES" containing links for "Project background" and "Frequently Asked Questions".

The bottom section is titled "Innovative Teaching develops students 21st Century skills" and contains the text: "The transformation goes beyond Information Communications Technology (ICT). Merely having technology inside the classroom does not by itself change teaching and learning. For ICT to be effective, educators need to adopt and use the very skills they are seeking to instill in their students: collaboration, real world problem-solving, knowledge-construction, self regulation, and the use of ICT for learning. Partners in Learning School Research can be an important first step in bringing about this deeper transformation of the teaching and learning experience." To the right of this text is an image of a student sitting on a log over a pond, with a red overlay that reads "Microsoft Partners in Learning School Research Report January".

### What's changed from the older version that was separate from PILN?

1. The survey has been updated
2. Once the survey is set up it sits in the School Profile on PILN
3. To help you drive your registration goals, everyone involved in the survey must be a member of PILN

4. When a teacher is invited to take the survey and clicks a link to take it, they are automatically joined to a school profile
5. The PILSR badge will automatically be awarded when a survey is complete

### What are the benefits of the online research tool?

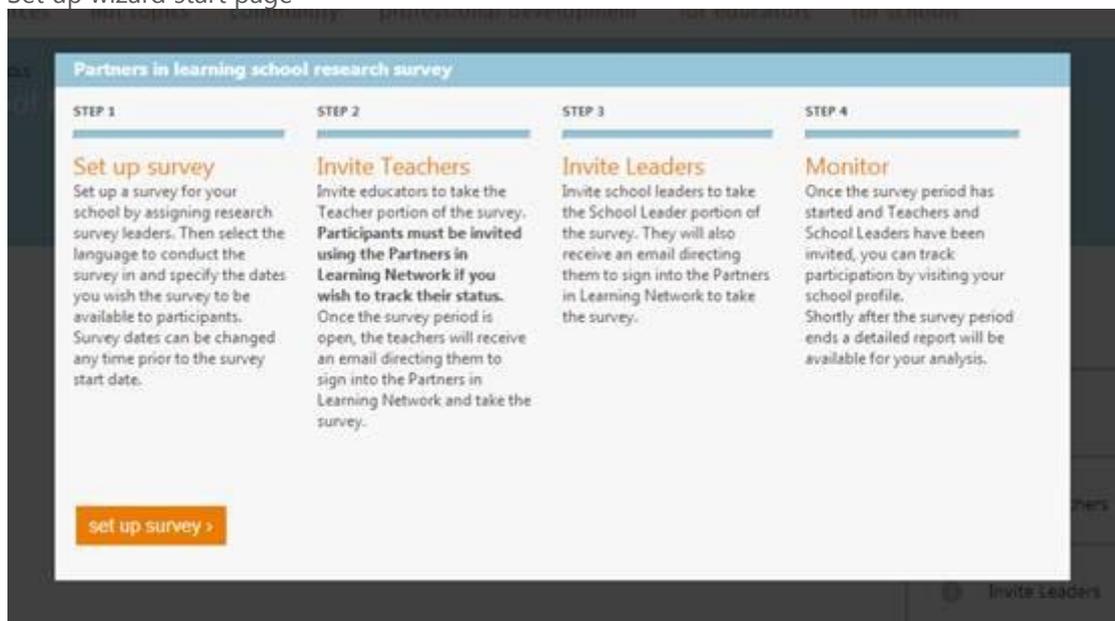
Partners in Learning School Research helps schools achieve a common understanding of innovative teaching practices, educational transformation, and how all parties can collectively move forward. PILSR is:

- **Credible.** The research tool validates the role/importance of ICT and is based on globally-recognized research\* that measures innovation in three key areas:
  - Student-centered pedagogy (teaching/learning)
  - Extend learning beyond the classroom
  - ICT\*\* used for teaching and learning
- **Complimentary.** Available at no cost to primary and secondary schools worldwide.
- **Easy/Accessible.** Available online and easy to administer. Set up, distribute surveys, and receive data easily and with minimal time commitment.
- **Measurable.** School-specific measurement and a path to innovation. Research data provides factual, school-specific information to empower leaders to make educated, data-driven decisions.
- **Personalized.** Provides school-specific results based on *each individual school's own environment.*

### How does the research tool work?

1. **Schools sign up using a simple set up wizard:** Sign up for PILN. Identify a research leader. Invite teachers. Invite School leaders. Takes 15-20 minutes to set up. (Note: it is only available to schools on PILN, so if you try to set one up using your Microsoft company profile, you will be prompted to establish a school profile.)

Set up wizard start page



### 2. Distribute Surveys & Reminders

**Easy Distribution:** PILN sends emails that contains survey links, call-to-actions, and deadlines. PILN enables research leaders to see who has and has not taken the surveys and sends reminder emails to complete surveys.

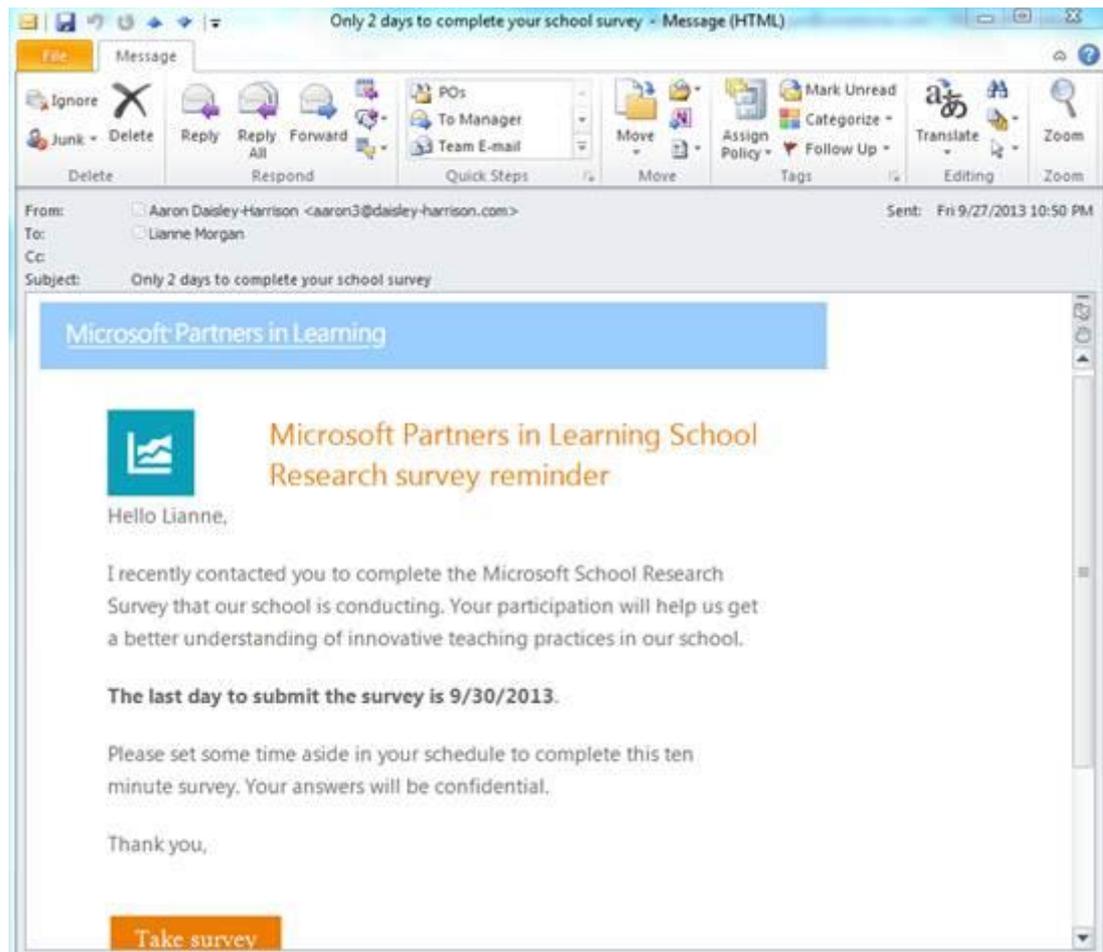
Invitation to take the school survey



Monitor your school's survey progress screen



Reminder emails are sent to participants who haven't completed their survey



### 3. Use the Report

**Insightful Results:** Once the survey window has closed, a report is generated and available to people who participated in the survey. The report measures elements of innovative teaching practices and compares educator and school leader responses.

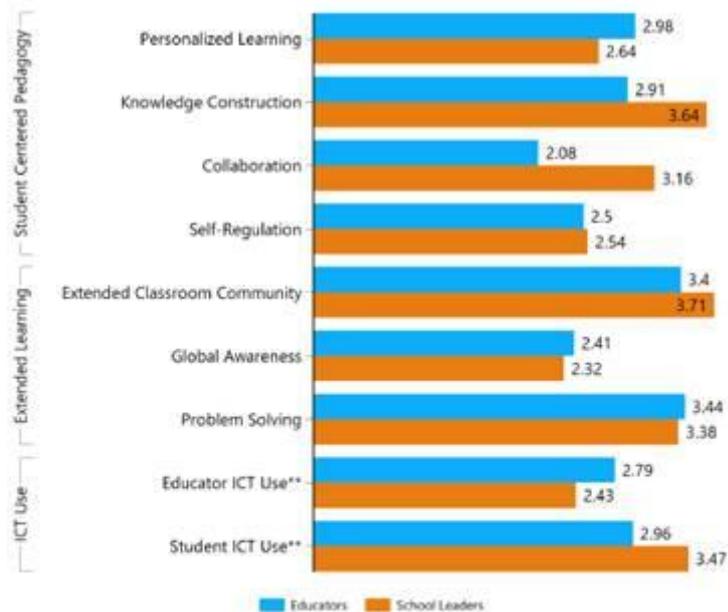
- Below are a few examples of PILSR results.
  - Innovative Teaching Practices Index
  - Student Centered Pedagogy
  - Extending Learning Beyond the Classroom
  - ICT Used for Teaching and Learning by Educators
  - ICT Used for Teaching and Learning by Students
  - Barriers to Technology Use
  - Topics of Professional Development and Levels of Innovative Teaching Practices
  - Types of Professional Development and Levels of Innovative Teaching Practices
  - Collaboration among Educators
  - Incentives and Recognition for Innovative Teaching

One page from the **sample report** which is attached.

## Innovative Teaching Practices Index\*

The chart on the right shows how educators at testscool report their use of the different elements of innovative teaching practices, and how school leaders estimate the use of these practices among educators in the school. These practices are described in more detail on the following pages.

*Other related research demonstrates that innovative teaching practices are strongly associated with students' development of 21st Century skills (see [www.irsresearch.com](http://www.irsresearch.com))*



\*All items are measured based on educators' reported frequency of a practice on a 5 point scale. Higher scores indicate a higher reported frequency of a practice. All items show averages across all responses from the school for each group (educators and school leaders). Data has been adjusted to account for the number of times a class meets per week.

\*\*Student and Teacher ICT Use has been calculated taking the average of basic and high level technology use (see pages 10-11).

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### In what languages have the surveys, invitations and reports been localized?

In addition to English, PILSR surveys and their corresponding report have been localized in the following languages:

1. Brazilian Portuguese
2. Polish
3. Finnish
4. Greek
5. Latvian
6. Lithuanian
7. Norwegian
8. Portuguese
9. Slovenian
10. Spanish
11. Russian
12. Swedish

### FAQ

1. What will happen to the old version of PILSR?
  - a. The old site is offline and the URL [www.pilsr.com](http://www.pilsr.com) will be redirected to [www.pil-network.com](http://www.pil-network.com).
2. Will the old customer data be on PILN?
  - a. No, for several reasons including that there is no way to tie the customer accounts together between the two systems because the sites used different authentication methods.
3. What if I would like to localize PILSR into an additional language for my country/region?
  - a. We will look at the cost for each additional language and determine when the work could be done among other development efforts.

4. Where are there likely to be customer support issues with PILSR?
  - a. Schools often lock down their internet environments which prevents them from accessing many websites. If PILN is blocked, the invitations that are sent to take the survey may not be received. When this has happened in the past, schools simply email their IT departments who put [www.pil-network.com](http://www.pil-network.com) on the "white list" and invitations can be resent.
  - b. School leaders can set up a survey in English and then translate the page using the Bing machine translator. However, the report they receive, will be in English. There is no way around this scenario, other than to localize the surveys and reports.
5. What happens if customers encounter issues with PILSR?
  - a. As with any major, multi-lingual release, we expect to have to issues that we couldn't foresee. Ask customers to email [Contact-PILN@microsoft.com](mailto:Contact-PILN@microsoft.com).