

Access to textbooks

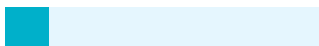
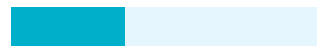
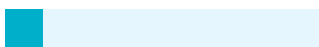
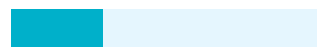
Teachers were asked about the number of textbooks for literacy and numeracy that year four and year six students had access to. They were provided with five options to choose from.

- Each student has their own textbook.
- Two students share one textbook.
- More than two students share one textbook.
- Only the teacher has the textbook.
- No textbook is provided.

Student access to textbooks

Table TT2.1

Access to textbooks

category	Year 4	Year 6
Literacy	 14%	 36%
Numeracy	 12%	 29%

Access to textbooks, Solomon Islands, PILNA 2021

() Standard errors appear in parentheses.

More year six students than year four students had access to their own textbook. On average, teachers in Solomon Islands reported that 14% of year four students and 36% of year six students had their own literacy textbooks. For numeracy, 12% of year four and 29% of year six students were reported as having their own numeracy textbooks (Table TT2.1).

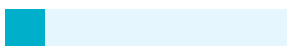
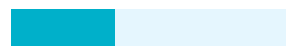
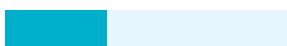
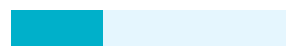
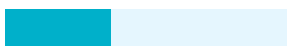
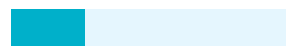
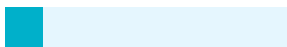
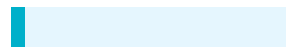
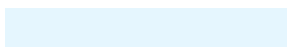
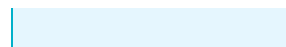
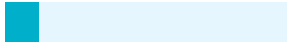
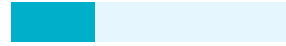
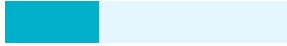
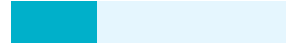
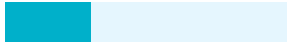
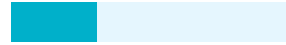
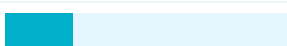
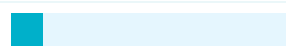
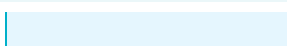
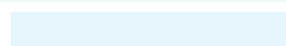
Almost no students in year four (literacy, 0%; numeracy, 1%) or year six (literacy, 1%; numeracy, 0%) had no access to a textbook.

There were large differences seen across the PILNA 2021 participating countries. The proportions of students having their own literacy and numeracy textbooks ranged from 0% to 87% for year four students while for year six students, the range was even higher, from 0% to 100%.

The full range of teacher responses by literacy, numeracy, and year level is shown in Table TT2.2.

Table TT2.2

Teacher responses by literacy, numeracy and year level

Access to textbooks	Year 4	Year 6
Literacy		
Each student has their own textbook	 14% (3.3)	 36% (5.4)
Two students share one textbook	 36% (5.5)	 32% (4.4)
More than two students share one textbook	 37% (5.4)	 26% (4.5)
Only the teacher has the textbook	 13% (3.8)	 5% (2.0)
There is no textbook at all	 0%	 1% (0.7)
Numeracy		
Each student has their own textbook	 12% (6.0)	 29% (3.9)
Two students share one textbook	 33% (5.8)	 30% (4.5)
More than two students share one textbook	 30% (4.3)	 30% (2.5)
Only the teacher has the textbook	 24% (0.0)	 11% (0.5)
There is no textbook at all	 1% (2.9)	 0% (4.0)

Percentage of students with access to literacy and numeracy textbooks in class

() Standard errors appear in parentheses.

What does this mean?

Access to textbooks varies throughout Solomon Islands schools, creating different learning environments for students, depending on the school they attend. Importantly, almost all students have access to a textbook either through their peers or their teacher. It is not known what effects, if any, textbook access has on student performance or learning environments.