International Education and Resource Network

Evaluation Report:
Program Impact on Teachers and Students Who Attended The 9th Annual International
iEARN Conference in Moscow, Russia 2002

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History of iEARN

iEARN, the International Education and Resource Network, began in 1988 as a small telecommunications project designed to provide on-line school linkages and exchanges between teachers and students from the former Soviet Union and the United States. Since then, iEARN has pioneered an expanding international network that enables young people to use the Internet and other new technologies to engage in collaborative educational projects that enhance their learning and help them to make a difference in the world.

iEARN is currently active in more than 6,000 K-12 schools and youth organizations in 96 different countries across the globe and has provided in-person and online trainings for teachers in 27 different languages. Each year, iEARN hosts numerous local and regional conferences and one international conference for teachers, students and administrators.

iEARN is a not-for-profit organization that receives funding from various federal grants, educational institutions, corporations and private foundations, including: the United States Department of Education, the United States State Department, Teachers College of Columbia University, City University of New York, the Colgate Corporation, the Open Society Institute, and the Tides Foundation.

About This Report

This evaluation report examines the impact of iEARN on 72 teachers and 70 students from 33 different countries who attended the 9th annual international iEARN conference in Moscow, Russia. Information was gathered through surveys, individual interviews, and a teacher focus group and workshop. The report was prepared as part of a graduate research project for the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University.[1]

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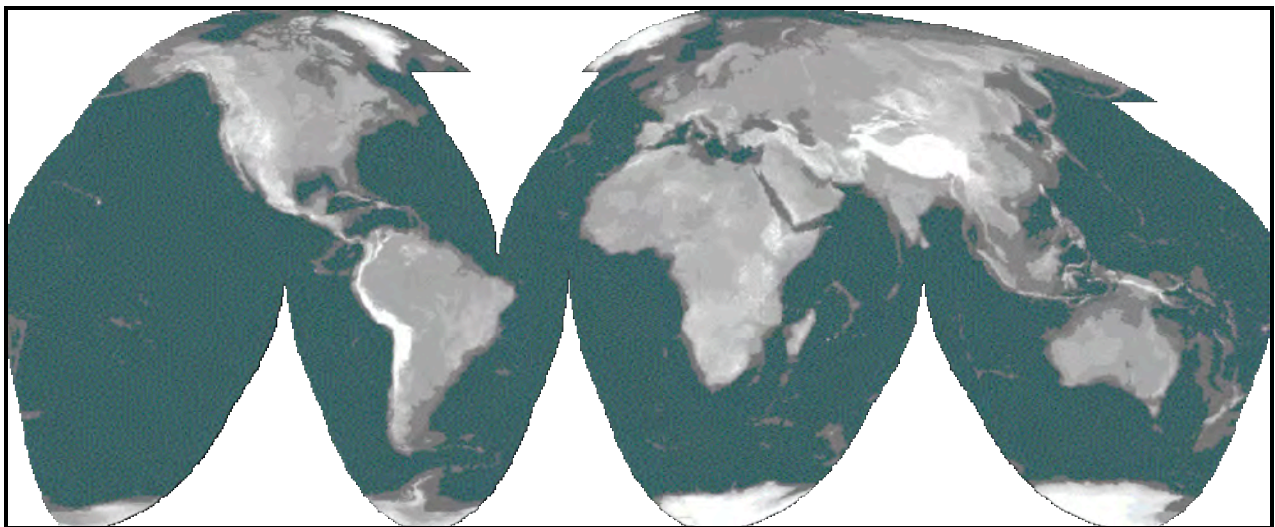
[1] For additional information, please see the Methodology section at the end of the report.

Summary of Key Findings

1. ***Improved academic skills***: iEARN helps students improve their academic skills, especially in the areas of communication, analysis, and foreign language. Eighty-eight percent of teachers who involved their students in at least one iEARN project felt that their students showed improvement in their academic skills and performance either *somewhat* or *very much*.

2. ***Enthusiasm for learning and engagement in other activities:*** iEARN creates an enjoyable learning experience for students and increases their involvement in extracurricular activities. According to teachers, 97 percent felt that iEARN helped students to enjoy learning and school either *somewhat* or *very much*. One teacher from Uganda said, "In my school, iEARN helped increase student attendance by more than 50 percent."

3. ***Enhanced cross-cultural awareness:*** iEARN significantly enhances students' appreciation and knowledge of other cultures. According to the data, three out of four teachers (75%) said that iEARN helped their students appreciate other cultures *very much*. Sixty-one percent of teachers noted that their students' ability to make connections between local and global problems had improved *very much*.

4. ***Active global-wide collaboration***: iEARN increases student collaboration within the classroom and between other students and teachers around the world. Seventy-eight percent of teachers reported that students collaborate on iEARN projects with other students in the same class either *1-3 times per month or four or more times per month*. Similarly, 57 percent of teachers said that their students collaborate on projects with students from another country; twenty-four percent of students are collaborating across *countries four or more times per month*.

5. ***Positive effects of video conferencing:*** iEARN students who participate in video conferencing demonstrate higher levels of collaboration, a greater ability to analyze information, and more improved academic and communication skills than non-participating iEARN students. Eighty-one percent of teachers using video conferencing reported that their students enjoy learning and school *very much* compared to 61 percent of their non-participating counterparts.

6. ***Benefits from cooperative learning projects*:** iEARN improves teachers' attitudes toward cooperative learning projects and strengthens their morale as teachers. Eighty-nine percent of teachers reported that their attitude toward cooperative learning projects had improved.

7. ***Increased interest in exchange programs*:** iEARN increases both teacher and student interest in exchange programs. Eighty-two percent of teachers and 86 percent of students said that their interest in exchange programs had increased *very much* as a result of their involvement with iEARN. As one student from Belarus put it, "My opinion is that students from different countries should meet more often and spend more time in different countries."

8. ***Improved technology skills*:** iEARN helps students improve their technology skills; helping teachers to troubleshoot technological difficulties is a key way to make iEARN even more successful in the classroom. Ninety-three percent of teachers noted that students improved their technology skills either *somewhat or very much*. In spite of these improvements, however, 80 percent of teachers noted that technological difficulties played some role in restricting the successful implementation of iEARN into their classroom.

The iEARN Teachers

Ninety-five percent of the teachers said they are satisfied with their participation in iEARN.

The teachers surveyed represented 33 countries and nearly every region of the world. More than 70 percent have been teaching for ten years or more. Eight out of ten teachers hold a University or Post-Graduate degree. Twenty-five percent of the teachers were male and 75 percent were female.

The typical teacher attending the international iEARN conference has been involved with iEARN for four years. She works in a publicly funded school system and teaches students with economic backgrounds that are on par with the national average of her country. She has participated in nine iEARN projects. This was her second iEARN conference.

The iEARN Students

Ninety-two percent of the students said they are satisfied with their participation in iEARN.

The students surveyed were, on average, fifteen years old. They represented 33 countries and nearly every region of the world. Thirty-three percent of the students were male and 67 percent were female. The typical iEARN student has been involved with iEARN for just under two years. She is active with an after-school or environmental program, which she started participating in this year. She has participated in four iEARN projects.   This was her first iEARN conference.

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*1. Improved academic skills: iEARN helps students improve
their academic skills, especially in the areas of communication,
analysis, and foreign language.*

**"I believe that we have only begun to tap the potential of iEARN in the United States and
around the world. We have a service with the potential to revolutionize education worldwide."**
-Teacher, USA

As pioneers in the field of on-line learning, iEARN teachers noted improvement in academic
skills among students who participated in iEARN's collaborative on-line learning projects.
Teachers most commonly engaged their students in projects that focused on the subject areas of
language arts/literature, science, and/or social studies. Eighty-eight percent of teachers who
involved their students in at least one of these projects felt that their students showed
improvement in their academic skills and performance either *somewhat or very much*. When
asked how much they thought iEARN has helped their students improve their ability to analyze
and interpret information, 95 percent reported *somewhat or very much*. Ninety-seven percent said
students improved their ability to write reports, essays, creative writing and poetry.

Teachers and students consistently described iEARN as a meaningful learning community. One
teacher from Russia said, "iEARN is not so much about technology as it is about building an on-
line family." Perhaps due in part to this "family" ethos, approximately three out of four teachers
noted that students' communication skills (78%) and their ability to work with others (72%) had
improved *very much*. Seventy-two percent of teachers said that students' ability to find,
compare, and evaluate information had improved *very much*. In addition, 58 percent of teachers
also noted similar improvement in students' foreign language skills.

Table 1

**Improvement in School Among Participating
iEARN Students**
N=64

Percent of Teachers Reporting

Communication Skills	Ability To Work With Others	Ability To Find and Evaluate Information	Foreign Language Skills
78%	72%	72%	58%
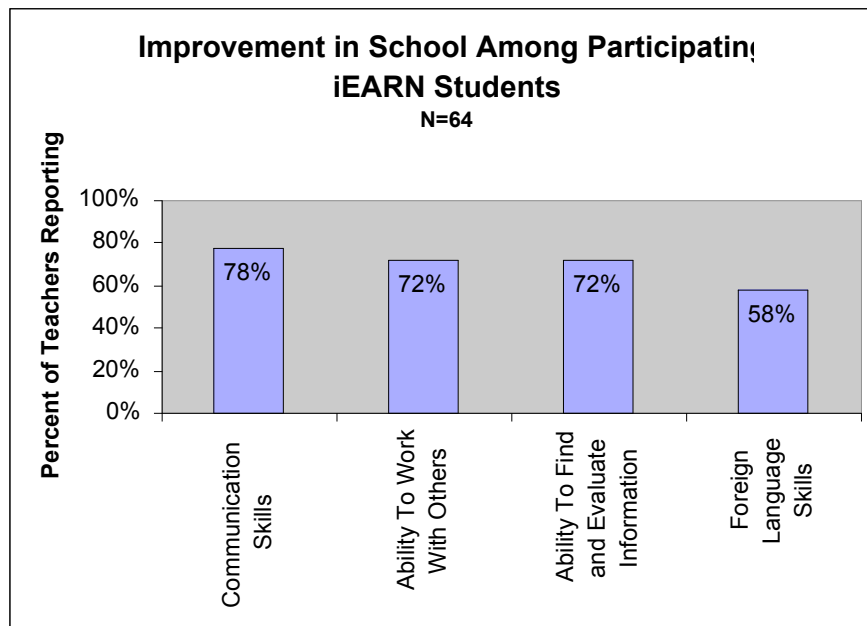
> *2. Enthusiasm for learning and engagement in other activities:* iEARN helps students enjoy learning and increases student involvement in extracurricular activities.
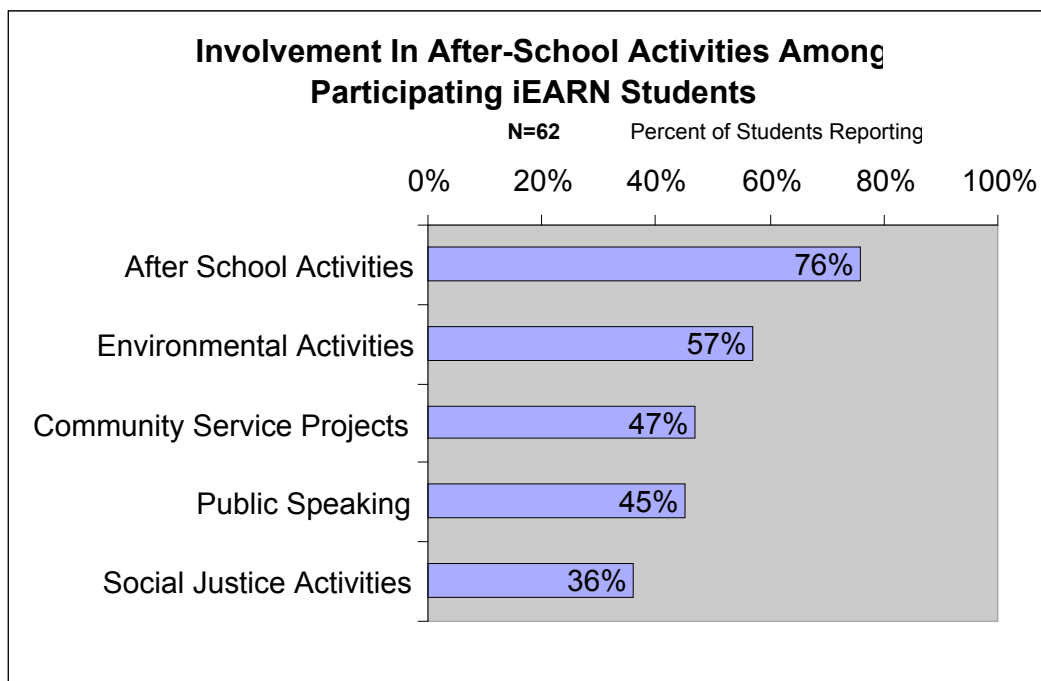
"iEARN motivated me to think and act differently; I am able to think globally and take that thought and act locally through social action projects."
-Student, United States

iEARN promotes an inclusive and structured learning environment where students can engage in project work that is relevant to their lives and the lives of people on the planet. Findings suggest that this type of learning environment has helped students find enjoyment in learning. According to teachers, 97 percent felt that iEARN helped students to enjoy learning and school either *somewhat or very much.* One teacher from Uganda said, "in my school, iEARN helped increase student attendance by more than 50 percent." Additionally, one student from Australia claimed that participating in iEARN "helped boost [her] confidence."

iEARN's impact on student learning extends beyond the classroom. Students who have been involved with iEARN for more than one year are more likely to regularly participate in after-school programs (64%) as compared to those who have participated in iEARN one year or less (50%). In addition, 76 percent of iEARN students participate in after-school activities including environmental activities (57%), community service projects (47%), public speaking (45%) and social justice activities (36%).

Table 2

Involvement In After-School Activities Among Participating iEARN Students
N=62   Percent of Students Reporting

Activity	Percent
After School Activities	76%
Environmental Activities	57%
Community Service Projects	47%
Public Speaking	45%
Social Justice Activities	36%

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3. Enhanced cross-cultural awareness: iEARN
significantly enhances students' appreciation and
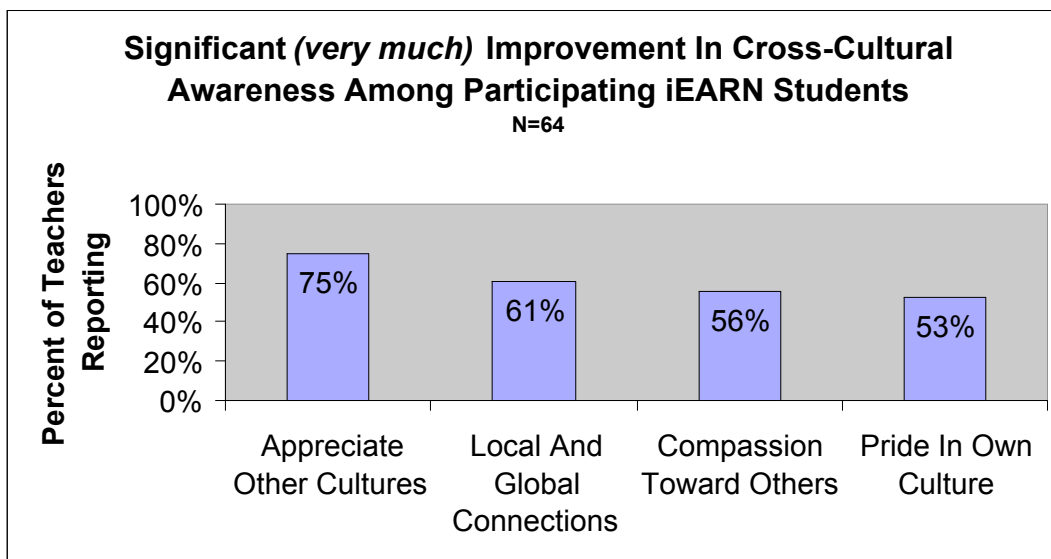*knowledge of other cultures.*

"iEARN helped me to realize how big the world is and [that] with the variety of cultures and languages, we have the chance to curiously learn about ourselves and others"
-Teacher, Iran

In individual interviews, teachers and students consistently discussed the benefits of connecting across countries and cultures. One teacher from Romania said, "The most important thing about iEARN for me was the opportunity to make my students more aware of the culture and traditions we have and to share our culture and traditions with other students around the world." Three out of four teachers (75%) said that iEARN helped their students appreciate other cultures *very much*. Sixty-one percent noted similar improvements in students' ability to make connections between local and global problems. In addition, 56 percent of teachers said that iEARN helped students feel more compassionate toward other people *very much*. Finally, approximately half of the teachers (53%) and students (49%) said that iEARN has helped students *very much* in their capacity to feel pride in their own culture.

Ninety-one percent of the teachers said that iEARN helped students make new friends with students from other countries either *somewhat or very much*. When students were asked what they would do if an iEARN student from another country was coming to visit their community, 70 percent said that they would invite the student to visit their school or club and 66 percent said that they would offer to show her around their community. One student from Belarus commented, "Through iEARN, I now have friends all over the world…it helps me to understand myself and the world around me."

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Table 3

Significant *(very much)* Improvement In Cross-Cultural Awareness Among Participating iEARN Students
N=64

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*4. Active global-wide collaboration: iEARN increases
student collaboration within the classroom and between
other students and teachers around the world.*

**"I am very appreciative of the opportunities iEARN has given me to develop international
connections"**
-Student, Australia

As a teacher from Taiwan said in her survey, "iEARN is a human network with each member of
this family forming a home for global collaboration." According to the data, most iEARN
students are collaborating with other students in their class or with students in other countries *1-3
times per month or four or more times per month*. Seventy-eight percent of teachers reported
that students collaborate on iEARN projects with other students in the same class.
Approximately two-thirds (64%) said that their students exchange information with students
from another country. In addition, 57 percent reported that their students collaborate on projects
with students from another country; twenty-four percent of students are collaborating across
countries *four or more times a month*.

iEARN students said that they were twice as likely to collaborate on a project with students from
anther country at least once a month in their iEARN class (46%) as compared to a non-iEARN
class (21%). Students also said they were more likely to exchange information with students
from another country in their iEARN class (49% compared to 30%) as well as collect
information about another country or culture (68% compared to 51%). One student from the
United States said, "because of iEARN, I am able to feel the ties between young people all over
the world and this will benefit the world in the future."

The findings also revealed that 85 percent of teachers are incorporating independent and group
work in their iEARN classes at least once a month; fifty-three percent have students work in
groups *four or more times a month* Two-thirds of the teachers (67%) said they conduct a lesson,
which facilitates understanding of cultures or cultural diversity at least once a month. Sixty-
three percent of teachers said that they design or prepare collaborative student projects for
iEARN. Half of the teachers reported that they collaborate with other teachers in their school to
design or prepare iEARN projects for their students. Forty-three percent of teachers reported
that they collaborate with teachers in another country or culture to design or prepare iEARN
projects for their students.

Table 4

Collaboration Among Students Participating In iEARN
N=64

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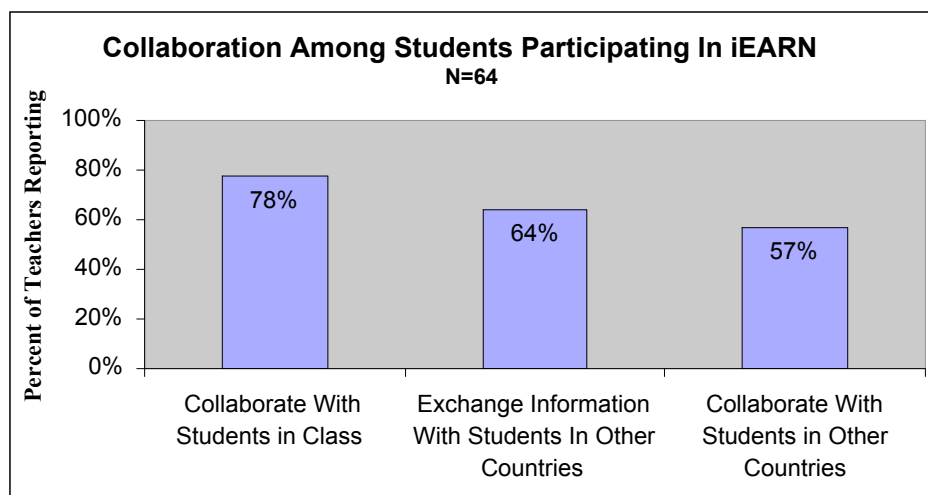
5. Positive effects of video conferencing: *Students who participate in video conferencing demonstrate higher levels of collaboration, a greater ability to analyze information, and more improved academic and communication skills than non-participating students.*

"If you dive into iEARN projects, you'll want to do them again and again"
-Student, Belarus

iEARN teachers involved in video conferencing reported high levels of participation and improved skills among their students. Eighty percent of teachers who use video conferencing said that it strengthened students' friendships with other iEARN students *very much*. More than half said that video conferencing improved students' understanding of school environments in different countries and cultures. Video conferencing also motivated students to visit other countries, explore other cultures and understand the value of learning a different language.

Students who participated in iEARN video conferencing demonstrated significantly higher levels of interpersonal and academic success than non-participating iEARN students. Eighty-one percent of teachers who participated in iEARN video conferencing reported that their students enjoy learning and school *very much* compared to 61 percent of non-participating teachers. Students were also more likely to have improved their communication skills (100% compared to 78%), ability to work with others (93% compared to 72%), technology skills (87% compared to 59%), understanding of international events (93% compared to 81%), and their ability to get a job when they graduate (60% compared to 27%). Approximately two-thirds of teachers who participated in video conferencing felt that iEARN helped their students make a meaningful difference in the world and helped students feel more pride in their own culture.

Teachers who participated in video conferencing are more likely to utilize collaborative learning strategies. For example, 73 percent of their students took part in student-led discussions *4 or more times per month* versus 34 percent of students of non-participating teachers. Students of video conferencing teachers seem better prepared to work in a variety of settings, including group work (93% compared to 53%) and independent work (80% compared to 47%). Video conferencing teachers also reported that their students are more likely take a leadership role in their learning (67% compared to 42%). Perhaps due to some additional time required for video conferencing, 60 percent of these teachers reported time/scheduling problems be a *very important* factor in restricting the successful implementation of iEARN into their classroom, compared to 33 percent of non-participating teachers.

Profile of iEARN Video Conferencing Teachers

The fifteen iEARN teachers who participated in video conferencing were a diverse group, representing eight out of ten regions in the world. They have been involved with iEARN for an average of six years—two years longer than most teachers attending the conference. Video conferencing teachers also reported that they primarily worked within a publicly-funded school system and that their students were from economic backgrounds on par with the national average.

> ### 6. Benefits from cooperative learning projects: *iEARN improves teachers' attitudes toward cooperative learning projects and strengthens their morale as teachers.*

"iEARN has given me a chance to reassess myself and become a global teacher."
-Teacher, Sri Lanka

Teachers reported that their participation in iEARN had an important impact on their attitudes and approaches toward cooperative learning projects. One iEARN teacher from India said that "iEARN has helped me become a better teacher; it has also helped me to understand that linear teaching methods are not the only way." This is just one example of the 89 percent of teachers who said that their attitude toward cooperative learning projects had improved *very much* after participating in iEARN. In addition, 79 percent of teachers said that their repertoire of teaching strategies had increased.

One way that teachers enhance their involvement in cooperative learning projects is through participation in iEARN conferences. Eighty-three percent of teachers said they were most looking forward to sharing and learning about iEARN collaborative learning projects at the international conference. Seventy-two percent of the teachers said that they were looking forward to meeting other iEARN teachers and 70 percent were looking forward to finding new project partners.

Participation in iEARN also positively impacted teacher attitudes. Eighty-six percent of teachers said that their morale as teachers improved since they began participating in iEARN. Eighty-four percent said that their commitment to make a meaningful difference in the world—for people and the planet—increased; and eighty-one percent of teachers said that their understanding of international events improved .

2002 iEARN Conference Closing Ceremony

> ### *7. Interest in exchange programs:* *iEARN increases both student and teacher interest in exchange programs.*

"I think iEARN should offer more opportunities to take part in exchange programs"
-Student, Russia

Teachers and students alike expressed an interest in expanding the iEARN network to include exchange programs. As one student from Belarus put it, "My opinion is that students from different countries should meet more often and spend more time in different countries." Eighty-four percent of teachers and students said that they had considered spending time in another country through a teacher/student exchange program. Eighty-six percent of students and 82 percent of teachers said that their interest in an exchange program had increased *very much* as a result of their involvement with iEARN.

In addition to exchanges, students were amenable to the idea of hosting students from another country. When students were asked what they would do if an iEARN student from another country was coming to visit their community, 58 percent said that they would ask their family if the student could stay in their home.

Students and teachers exchanging ideas about iEARN

> **8. Improved technology skills**: *iEARN helps students improve their technology skills; helping teachers to troubleshoot technological difficulties is a key way to make iEARN even more successful in the classroom.*

"iEARN changed my teaching and the direction of my career. I am now focused on mastering information and communications technologies (ICT's)"
-Teacher, Australia

Most teachers and students who attended the 2002 iEARN conference have access to a computer and to the Internet. Approximately two-thirds of teachers (60%) said that they have a computer in their classroom that is connected to the Internet and 76 percent reported that their school has a computer lab or Internet learning center. In both their iEARN and non-iEARN classes, two-thirds of the students said that they use the Internet *four or more times per month* and more than half (57%) use a search engine to find information on the Internet. In addition, 70 percent of students reported that they have a computer at home.

Ninety-three percent of teachers noted that students improved their technology skills *somewhat or very much*. In spite of these improvements, however, 80 percent of teachers noted that technological difficulties played some role in restricting the successful implementation of iEARN into their classroom. One teacher from the United States said that she "lost more than three to four months of interaction" as a result of technical difficulties. Further, 78 percent of teachers said that learning how to use iEARN technology was a *very important* area for iEARN trainings.

Table 5

Improvement In Technology Skills Among Participating iEARN Students

(Improved Very Much: 59%, Some Improvement: 34%, No Improvement: 7%)
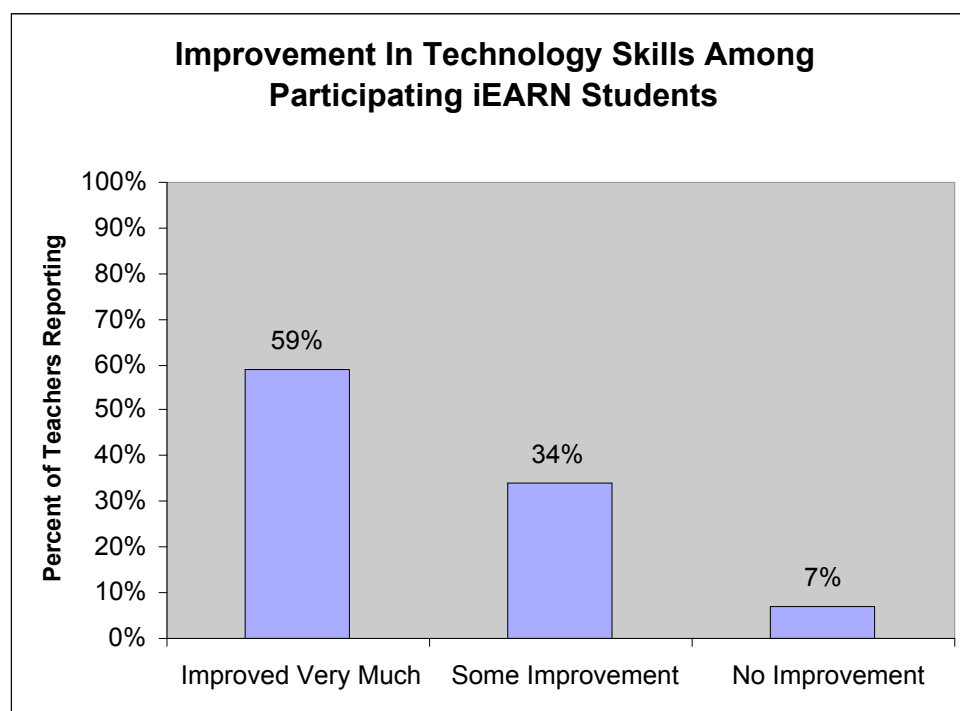
Evaluation Highlights
The impact of iEARN on students and teachers

Ninety-seven percent of teachers said that iEARN helped students to enjoy learning and school either *somewhat or very much.*

Ninety-seven percent of teachers said students improved their ability to write reports, essays, creative writing and poetry.

Ninety-five percent of teachers said iEARN helped their students improve their ability to analyze and interpret information.

Ninety-three percent of teachers noted that students improved their technology skills either *somewhat or very much.*

Eighty-four percent of teachers said that their commitment to make a meaningful difference in the world—for people and the planet—had increased.

Eighty percent of teachers who utilized video conferencing reported that it strengthened students' friendships with other iEARN students *very much*.

Ninety-five percent of teachers said they are satisfied with their participation in iEARN.

Three out of four teachers (75%) said that iEARN helped their students appreciate other cultures *very much.*

One-hundred percent of teachers who participated in video conferencing said that their students had improved their communication skills *very much*.

Sixty-nine percent of teachers reported that iEARN has helped their students to develop a closer relationship with the teacher.

Eighty-six percent of students and 82 percent of teachers said that their interest in an exchange program had increased *very much* as a result of their involvement with iEARN.

Eighty-six percent of teachers said that their morale as teachers improved since they began participating in iEARN.

Recommendations

1. Teacher training: Fifty-seven percent of the teachers surveyed said that they had participated in at least one of iEARN's teacher trainings and 63 percent said that the training prepared them *very well*. In interviews, many of the iEARN teachers who had participated in iEARN since the early 1990's added that they saw, "real benefits of these trainings as compared to those held in the 'early years' of iEARN." One teacher said that when she first started working with iEARN, "learning mostly happened through trial and error." These teachers and others expressed the need for iEARN to continue developing its teacher-training program, both for participating teachers and for new and prospective iEARN teachers.

Teachers expressed enthusiasm for more targeted trainings to address technological challenges and the challenges of developing curriculum for project-based learning. Approximately 75 percent of teachers also indicated that work overload and time and scheduling problems were two significant factors restricting the successful implementation of iEARN into their classroom. One teacher said, "iEARN projects need to be able to fit into the existing curriculum, otherwise time is our enemy at school."

In the open-ended survey questions, teachers offered different suggestions for future iEARN teacher trainings, including:

  Offer a limited selection of projects for teachers who are new to iEARN so they can participate without feeling overwhelmed or lost in all the variety of projects.

  Emphasize time-efficient strategies for teachers and students to respond to every child who writes a letter, essay, or e-mail. Even a one-sentence response makes a difference to that child.

  Institute time-efficient communication strategies for teachers running projects (e.g., how to respond to 100 e-mails in a day).

  Maintain and update the iEARN handbook so that projects accurately reflect their description.

  Establish a set training methodology for all teachers.

In interviews, several teachers felt that iEARN needed to offer professional workshops for teachers who attend the international conference. iEARN may want to:

  Utilize its international conference as a location for professional weeklong teacher trainings for teachers.
  Offer these trainings to students who want to become trainers or who are interested in initiating projects when they enter college or university.

2. Fundraising: In interviews, many teachers said they wanted assistance with fundraising in order to provide students the opportunity to participate in iEARN. This was especially true for teachers in developing countries. Teachers made the following suggestions to iEARN:

> Offer fundraising trainings to country coordinators.
>
> Present on-line access to promotional materials for fundraising purposes.
>
> Establish more fundraising strategies to enhance developing countries' ability to participate.
>
> Provide more information about possible grants and scholarships.

In interviews, several teachers expressed an interest in professional fundraising trainings at future conferences and/or on-line trainings. In the meantime, iEARN might consider adding to its website an iEARN Fundraising page, which would include promotional materials, talking points, available grants and scholarships, contacts, etc. Given the extensive interest in fundraising and the limitations of this survey on the topic, iEARN may also want to carry out additional research to assess the fundraising needs of teachers.

3. Video conferencing: iEARN Video conferencing had a clear and overwhelmingly positive impact on participating teachers and students. As mentioned, the iEARN teachers involved in video conferencing reported notably high levels of participation and improved skills among their students. Considering the small number of teachers surveyed who participated in video conferencing (15), iEARN may consider conducting a follow-up evaluation to investigate the results presented in this report. In addition, iEARN should analyze the cost-effectiveness and accessibility of video conferencing technology for iEARN teachers.

4. Program evaluation: As mentioned, this evaluation reflects the views of the 72 teachers and 70 students from 33 different countries who attended the 9th annual international iEARN conference in Moscow, Russia. This sample is less than one percent of all teachers and students who participate in iEARN around the world. Given that this evaluation is limited to conference participants, iEARN may consider conducting a program-wide evaluation with the global iEARN population to capture their views and perspectives.

Methodology

This report is an evaluation of 142 teachers and students from 33 different countries who attended the ninth annual international iEARN conference in Moscow, Russia from July 7-14, 2002. The purpose of this evaluation is to examine the impact of iEARN on participating teachers and students. The information for the report was gathered through surveys, individual interviews, and a teacher focus group and workshop. The report was prepared as part of a graduate research project for the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University.

The teacher and student surveys were designed with input and feedback from key stakeholders in the iEARN network including students, teachers, iEARN staff, board members and members of the iEARN Global Assembly. In addition, several questions on the survey were adapted directly and indirectly from the following sources:

1. Evaluation of The New York State/Moscow Schools Telecommunications Project, prepared for the New York State Education Department by MAGI Educational Services, Inc. February, 1992

2. Design of the World Monitoring and Evaluation Component, prepared for the World Links for Development Program by SRI International, August 1998

The teacher and student surveys were administered during the international iEARN conference: student surveys were completed during an hour-long workshop. Teacher surveys were completed during free time at the conference. Teachers were instructed to return surveys to a drop-off box prior to end of the conference. Additional anecdotal information was collected through individual interviews and one hour teacher focus group and workshop.

SPSS software was used to analyze data. Descriptive statistics, such as mean and median tests were used as a primary part of the analysis. The X_ test was also used to determine the existence of significant relationships between variables.

TEACHER AND STUDENT SURVEYS

iEARN Teacher Survey

Section I. Understanding You

Directions: We want to learn more about you. Please circle the responses that best describe your answer or write a response in the blank spaces below.

1. Are you:
    A. Male   **25%**
    B. Female   **75%**

2. What is the highest level of education you have received?
    A. Secondary   **
    B. Post-secondary   **
    C. University   **22%**
    D. Post-graduate   **59%**
    E. Other   **19%**

3. How many years have you been teaching students (primary and/or secondary)?
    A. Less than 1 year   **4%**
    B. 1-5 years   **6%**
    C. 5-10 years   **19%**
    D. 10 years or more   **71%**

4. In what region of the world do you currently teach?
    A. Africa   **7%**
    B. Australia and Oceania   **3%**
    C. Asia   **12%**
    D. Caribbean   **1%**
    E. Central America   **
    F. Central and Eastern   **42%**
        Europe
    G. Middle East   **13%**
    H. North America   **14%**
    I. South America   **3%**
    J. Western Europe   **5%**

5. In what country do you currently teach?_____

6. How long have you been involved in iEARN? **Mean=4 years**
    A. Less than 1 year   **3%**
    B. 1 year   **17%**
    C. 1.5 years   **6%**
    D. 2 years   **8%**
    E. More than 2 years   **66%**

7. What is the name of the institution where you engage in iEARN projects (optional)?

8. How would you describe the economic level of the families of your students that participate in iEARN?
A.	Above the national average	**18%**
B.	The same as the national average	**32%**
C.	Below the national average	**11%**
D.	Economic levels vary	**36%**
E.	Don't know or not sure	**
F.	Other	**3%**

9. In what type of institution do you work with iEARN?
A.	Privately funded school	**12%**
B.	Publicly funded school	**53%**
C.	School partially funded by private and public sources	**8%**
D.	An after-school program/club	**20%**
E.	Other	**7%**

10. How many iEARN projects have you participated in since you started working with iEARN?

    Mean=9

11. How many international iEARN conferences have you attended?
A.	This is my first conference	**36%**
B.	This is my second time	**19%**
C.	This is my third time	**13%**
D.	I have attended more than three international iEARN conferences	**32%**

    Mean=2.7

12. What are you looking most forward to at this international iEARN conference? (Please circle ALL that apply)
A.	Meeting other iEARN teachers	**72%**
B.	Sharing and learning about iEARN projects	**83%**
C.	Finding new project partners	**70%**
D.	Project planning	**45%**
E.	Other (Please specify_____)	

13. What other iEARN conferences (local or regional) have you attended, if any?

    _____

14. Have you ever considered spending time in another country through a teacher/student exchange program?
A.	Yes	**84%**
B.	No	**16%**

15. If you answered "yes" to Question 14, how much has your interest in a teacher/student exchange program increased as a result of your participation in iEARN?

    A. Very much   **82%**
    B. Somewhat   **15%**
    C. Not at all   ******
    D. Don't know or not sure   **3%**

Section II. Understanding Your Involvement with iEARN

Directions: We want to learn more about your involvement with iEARN. Please circle or check the responses that best describe your answer or write a response in the blank spaces below.

16. How do you access iEARN?
    A. Email   **33%**
    B. Newsgroups   **8%**
    C. Web-based forums   **7%**
    D. Email and Newsgroups   **7%**
    E. Email and Web-based forums   **32%**
    F. All of the above   **13%**

17. How often does your class participate in the following iEARN projects?

	Very Often	Sometimes	Not at all	Don't know or not sure
A. Long term: any ongoing project where new teachers and students may join at any time	**45%**	**41%**	**9%**	**5%**
B. Short term: project that generally begins and ends within one school year	**42%**	**41%**	**14%**	**3%**
C. Learning circles: a 14-week project-based partnership between 5-8 schools	**17%**	**22%**	**58%**	**3%**
D. Contribution: projects in which your students make a contribution without an on-going commitment	**16%**	**44%**	**31%**	**9%**

18. How often do your iEARN project(s) focus on the following subject(s)?

	Very often	Sometimes	Not at all	Don't know or not sure
A. Language arts/Literature	**66%**	**23%**	**11%**	******
B. Science/Environment	**53%**	**33%**	**14%**	******
C. Math	**3%**	**33%**	**61%**	******
D. Social studies	**45%**	**30%**	**23%**	**2%**

19. Do you have a computer that is connected to the Internet in your classroom?
     A. Yes   **60%**
     B. No   **35%**
     C. Not applicable   **5%**

20. Does your school have a computer lab or Internet learning center?
     A. Yes   **76%**
     B. No   **19%**
     C. Not applicable   **5%**

21. Approximately how many hours per week do students have individual access to computers
    (either in your classroom or in a computer lab) for iEARN projects?

	5 or more hours per week	1-4 hours per week	Less than 1 hour per week	Don't know or not sure
A. during class time	**13%**	**49%**	**18%**	**20%**
B. after classes	**26%**	**35%**	**11%**	**28%**

22. Have you received any iEARN training? (if no, please skip to Question 25)
     A. Yes   **57%**
     B. No   **43%**

23. If you answered "yes" to Question 22, what type of training did you receive? (Please circle
    ALL that apply)
     A. Multi-day workshop   **65%**
     B. One-day workshop   **33%**
     C. One hour workshop   **9%**
     D. On-line training course   **40%**

24. How well do you think the training prepared you for your iEARN responsibilities?
     A. Very well   **63%**
     B. Somewhat well   **26%**
     C. Not at all   **3%**
     D. Don't know or not sure   **8%**

25. How important do you think the following areas are for iEARN trainings?

	Very Important	Somewhat important	Not at all Important	Don't know or not sure

A.	developing basic computer skills	**50%**	**33%**	**13%**	**5%**
B.	learning how to use iEARN technology	**78%**	**18%**	**2%**	**2%**
C.	developing curriculum for project-based learning	**69%**	**27%**	**1%**	**3%**
D.	managing time effectively	**41%**	**44%**	**8%**	**7%**

26. Have you ever participated in a video conference with iEARN?
     A. Yes   **23%**
     B. No   **77%**

27. If you answered "yes" to Question 26, how much do you think your participation in the video conference impacted student learning?

"Participating in the video conference …"	Very much	Somewhat	Not at all	Don't know or not sure
A. strengthened students' friendships with other iEARN students	80%	13%	7%	**
B. improved students' understanding of iEARN projects	60%	27%	13%	**
C. improved students' understanding of school environments in different cultures and countries	53%	33%	7%	7%
D. showed students the value of learning a different language	53%	33%	14%	**
E. motivated students to visit other countries or explore other cultures	60%	20%	13%	7%
F. other (please specify)				**

_____

28. In order to make iEARN successful in your classroom, how important are the following resources?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know or not sure
A. ongoing teacher training/professional development	84%	14%	**	2%
B. language translation capability (i.e. translation software)	44%	38%	16%	2%
C. iEARN handbook, training guides, and other materials	69%	25%	5%	1%
D. iEARN training for more teachers in my school	65%	25%	8%	2%
E. direct Internet connection (DSL, cable, T1, etc.)	64%	22%	6%	8%
F. other (Please specify)				

_____

Section III. Understanding Your Work with IEARN

Directions: We want to know more about your work with iEARN. Please check the appropriate box the questions below.

29. On average, how often do *you* incorporate the following in your class(es) that use iEARN?

"In my class(es) that use iEARN, I…."	4 or more times a month	1-3 times per month	Less than once a month	Not at all	Don't know or not sure
A. engage students in teacher-led discussions	26%	51%	11%	6%	6%
B. engage students in student-led discussions	34%	38%	15%	7%	6%
C. have students work independently	47%	38%	7%	3%	6%
D. have students work in groups	53%	32%	8%	3%	4%
E. design materials for students to evaluate or assess their own learning or that of their peers	17%	29%	31%	10%	14%
F. design or prepare collaborative student projects	19%	44%	22%	5%	10%
G. collaborate with other teachers in my school to design or prepare iEARN projects for my students	25%	25%	33%	9%	8%
H. collaborate with other teachers in another country or from another culture to design or prepare iEARN projects for my students	23%	20%	28%	16%	13%
I. design or conduct a lesson which facilitates understanding of cultures or cultural diversity	31%	36%	18%	7%	9%

30. On average, how often do *your students* engage in the following activities as part of their iEARN involvement?

"In my class(es) that use iEARN, my students…"	4 or more times a month	1-3 times per month	Less than once a month	Not at all	Don't know or not sure
A. work/collaborate on a project with other students in the same class	35%	43%	13%	4%	5%
B. work/collaborate on a project with students from another school in their own country	24%	25%	31%	17%	3%
C. work/collaborate on a project with students from another country	24%	33%	19%	19%	5%
D. exchange information with students from another country	32%	32%	15%	14%	7%
E. collect information from books or other sources on a problem or topic	41%	38%	14%	1%	6%
F. collect data for a research project	32%	31%	26%	6%	5%
G. collect evidence to argue a position about a controversial issue	19%	24%	33%	14%	10%
H. write project reports	22%	26%	39%	8%	5%
I. collect information about another country or culture	24%	26%	36%	3%	11%
J. communicate with parents or other members of the community about what they do in iEARN	10%	22%	46%	7%	15%
K. use email	65%	24%	4%	1%	6%
L. use bulletin boards or listservs	29%	25%	11%	17%	18%
M. use the Internet (World Wide Web)	67%	19%	7%	3%	4%
N. use a search engine to find information on the Internet	57%	24%	7%	8%	4%
O. produce a web page	10%	21%	31%	25%	13%

| P. | go on field trips for iEARN-related projects | 9% | 19% | 42% | 16% | 14% |

31. How has your participation in iEARN affected you?

"By participating in iEARN…"	Improved	Remained the same	Worsened	Don't know or not sure
A. my morale has	86%	9%	**	5%
B. my attitude toward cooperative student learning projects has	89%	5%	**	6%
C. my repertoire of teaching strategies has	79%	16%	**	5%
D. my use of technology in the classroom has	76%	22%	**	2%
E. my understanding of international events has	81%	14%	**	5%
F. my commitment to make a meaningful difference in the world –for people and the planet – has	84%	9%	**	7%

G. other (Please specify)

_____

32. How, if at all, have the following factors restricted the successful implementation of iEARN into your classroom?

	Very much	Somewhat	Not at all	Don't know or not sure
A. insufficient training	17%	52%	28%	3%
B. inadequate curriculum materials	23%	39%	34%	4%
C. time/scheduling problems	33%	42%	23%	2%
D. technological difficulties	25%	55%	18%	2%
E. difficulties communicating in another language	22%	30%	45%	3%
F. lack of student interest	16%	28%	53%	3%
G. insufficient resources (lack of	19%	41%	36%	4%

computers, etc.)

H. work overload	36%	41%	14%	9%

I.   other (Please specify)

_____

Section IV. Understanding What Your Students Have Learned From iEARN

Directions: We want to learn more about what your students have learned from iEARN. Please check the appropriate box to the questions listed below.

33. How much do you think iEARN has helped your students to:

"iEARN has helped my students to…"	Very much	Some-what	Not at all	Don't know or not sure
A. enjoy learning and school	61%	36%	2%	1%
B. appreciate other cultures	75%	22%	2%	1%
C. feel more compassionate toward other people	56%	39%	2%	3%
D. make new friends with students from other schools in the community	61%	27%	9%	3%
E. make new friends with students from other countries	67%	24%	5%	4%
F. discuss world issues with friends and adults	47%	42%	5%	6%
G. discuss world issues with family members	30%	53%	3%	14%
H. improve foreign language skills	58%	26%	13%	3%
I. improve research skills	49%	40%	6%	5%
J. improve academic skills	38%	50%	8%	4%
K. increase knowledge of international events	48%	36%	6%	10%
L. take a leadership role in their learning	42%	48%	3%	7%
M. develop a closer relationship with the teacher	69%	20%	8%	3%
N. make a meaningful difference in the world – for people and the planet	47%	38%	8%	7%
O. feel more pride in their own culture	53%	38%	2%	7%
P. make connections between local and global problems (environmental, social, etc.)	61%	27%	6%	6%

Q. get more involved in other activities (i.e. after-school programs)	**45%**	**38%**	**11%**	**6%**
R. increase their civic involvement in the community	**33%**	**45%**	**11%**	**11%**
S. become more politically aware	**25%**	**45%**	**20%**	**10%**

34. On average, how much has student *knowledge, skills, and abilities* improved as a result of their participation in iEARN?

"By participating in iEARN students improved their…"	Very much	Somewhat	Not at all	Don't know or not sure
A. academic performance	**38%**	**55%**	**7%**	**2%**
B. ability to evaluate their own learning	**45%**	**47%**	**6%**	**2%**
C. ability to find, compare, and evaluate information	**72%**	**23%**	**3%**	**2%**
D. ability to analyze and interpret information	**61%**	**34%**	**3%**	**2%**
E. ability to write reports, essays, creative writing, poetry, etc.	**66%**	**31%**	**2%**	**1%**
F. ability to use images, drawings, or graphics to represent ideas	**66%**	**28%**	**3%**	**3%**
G. knowledge about other cultures, countries, or languages	**75%**	**23%**	**2%**	******
H. ability to work with others	**72%**	**27%**	**1%**	******
I. technology skills	**59%**	**34%**	**7%**	******
J. communication skills	**78%**	**20%**	**2%**	******
K. school attendance	**28%**	**33%**	**22%**	**17%**
L. ability to get a better job when they graduate	**27%**	**38%**	**11%**	**25%**
M. other (Please specify)				

35. In what ways, if any, have you shared your iEARN experience with other teachers not currently participating in iEARN?

        A. Email correspondence   **63%**
        B. Presentations   **75%**
        C. Informal conversations   **77%**
        D. Delivering trainings or workshops   **66%**
        E. Other

36. Please indicate your overall level of satisfaction with your participation in iEARN.
     A. Very satisfied   **75%**
     B. Somewhat satisfied   **20%**
     C. Not very satisfied   **5%**
     D. Not at all satisfied   ******

37. Do you have any suggestions for how to improve iEARN?

38. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your iEARN experience?

Thank you for completing this survey!!!!!!

Optional: Please feel free to leave us your name and e-mail address so we may contact you with
            follow-up questions (Please print):

_____

iEARN Student Survey

Section I. Understanding You

Directions: We want to learn more about you. Please circle the responses that best describe your answer or write a response in the blank spaces below.

1. Are you:
   A. Male   **33%**
   B. Female   **67%**

2. What is your age?   **Mean=15**

3. In what region of the world do you currently attend school?
   A. Africa   ******
   B. Australia and Oceania   **10%**
   C. Asia   **23%**
   D. Caribbean   ******
   E. Central America   ******
   F. Central and Eastern Europe   **33%**
   G. Middle East   **13%**
   H. North America   **6%**
   I. South America   ******
   J. Western Europe   **14%**

4. In what country do you currently attend school?_____

5. What is the name of your school/club where you participate in iEARN?

   _____

6. How long have you been involved in iEARN?
   A. Less than 1 year   **21%**
   B. 1 year   **17%**
   C. 1.5 years   **14%**
   D. 2 years   **22%**
   E. More than 2 years   **26%**

7. Do you have a computer at home?
   A. Yes   **70%**
   B. No   **30%**

8. How do you access iEARN?
   A. Email/listservs   **32%**
   B. Newsgroups   **11%**
   C. Web-based forums   **11%**

D. Email and web-based forums	**18%**
E. All of the above	**3%**
E. Other	**24%**

Section II. Understanding Your Involvement With iEARN

Directions: We want to learn more about your involvement with iEARN. Please circle the responses that best describe your answer or write a response in the blank spaces below.

9. How many international iEARN conferences have you attended?

E. This is my first conference	**79%**
F. This is my second time	**14%**
G. This is my third time	**5%**
H. I have attended more than three international iEARN conferences	**2%**

10. What are you looking most forward to at this international iEARN conference? (Please circle ALL that apply.)
  F. Meeting other iEARN students and teachers
  G. Making new friends
  H. Sharing and learning about iEARN projects
  I. Starting new iEARN projects
  J. Don't know or not sure

11. What other iEARN conferences (local or regional) have you attended, if any?

_____

12. How many iEARN projects have you participated in since you started working with iEARN?

Median=2, Mean=4.6

13. Have you ever participated in an iEARN Learning Circle?

A. Yes	**29%**
B. No	**55%**
C. Don't know	**16%**

14. If you answered "yes" to Question 13, how would you rate the iEARN learning circle?

A. Excellent	**61%**
B. Good	**39%**
C. Fair	******
D. Poor	******

15. Where do you work on your iEARN projects? (Please check the appropriate box)

		Most of the time	Sometimes	Not at all	Don't know/ not sure
A.	At school, during class time	**11%**	**41%**	**46%**	**2%**

B.	At school, during free time	**30%**	**44%**	**22%**	**4%**
C.	At home	**30%**	**49%**	**19%**	**2%**
D.	In an after-school club	**18%**	**11%**	**68%**	**3%**
E.	Other (please specify):				

_____

Section III. Understanding Your Interests

Directions: We want to know what activities you engage in at school or in your community in addition to iEARN. Please circle the appropriate responses.

16.

		participate in this activity?		participated in this activity?			
A. after-school programs	A.	Yes 76%	A.	started this year 11%	A.	1-2 times a year 12%
			B.	started last year 32%	B.	1-2 times a month 34%
	B.	No 24%	C.	started more 51% than two years ago	C.	1-2 times a week 29%
					D.	more than 2 25% times a week
B. debate/ public speaking offered by my school or community	A.	Yes 45%	A.	started this year 28%	A.	1-2 times a year 50%
			B.	started last year 41%	B.	1-2 times a month 34%
	B.	No 55%	C.	started more 31% than two years ago	C.	1-2 times a week 8%
					D.	more than 2 8% times a week
C. social justice activity offered by my school or community	A. Yes	36%	A.	started this year 51%	A.	1-2 times a year 46%
			B.	started last year 32%		
	B. No	64%	C.	started more 17% than two years ago	B.	1-2 times a month 16%
					C.	1-2 times a week 8%
					D.	more than 2 8% times a week
					E.	No answer 22%
D. environmental activity offered by my school or community	A.	Yes 57%	A.	started this year 40%	A.	1-2 times a year 38%
			B.	started last year 28%	B.	1-2 times a month 25%
	B.	No 43%	C.	started more 28% than two years ago	C.	1-2 times a week 20%
			D.	No answer 4%	D.	more than 2 3% times a week
					E.	No answer 14%
E. volunteer/ community service Projects	A.	Yes 47%	A.	started this year 43%	A.	1-2 times a year 46%
			B.	started last year 27%	B.	1-2 times a month 37%
	B.	No 53%	C.	started more 30% than two years ago	C.	1-2 times a week 9%
					D.	more than 2

Section IV. Understanding What You Learned From iEARN

Directions: We want to understand what you have learned from iEARN. Please check the appropriate box or circle the appropriate responses.

17. Compared to your overall experience in school, how much has your iEARN learning experience helped you to:

"iEARN has helped me to…"	Very much	Some-what	Not at all	Don't know or not sure
A. enjoy learning and school	29%	43%	8%	20%
B. appreciate other cultures	57%	35%	3%	5%
C. feel more compassionate toward other people	49%	33%	11%	7%
D. make new friends with students from other schools in my community	67%	29%	3%	1%
E. make new friends with students from other countries	70%	27%	2%	1%
F. discuss world issues with friends and adults	48%	40%	5%	7%
G. discuss world issues with family members	22%	37%	32%	9%
H. make a meaningful difference in the world -- for people and the planet	32%	37%	14%	17%
I. improve my research skills	40%	41%	11%	8%
J. improve my academic skills	35%	45%	6%	14%
K. increase my knowledge of international events	59%	35%	3%	3%
L. take a leadership role in my own learning	57%	27%	6%	10%
M. develop a closer relationship with my teacher	49%	33%	13%	5%
N. feel more pride in my own culture	52%	30%	8%	10%
O. make connections between local and global problems (environmental, social, etc.)	62%	24%	10%	4%
P. increase my civic involvement in the community	24%	51%	16%	9%
Q. become more politically aware	35%	41%	19%	5%

18. If an iEARN student from another country was coming to visit your community, what would you do? (Please circle ALL that apply)

	Yes	No
A. I would invite them to visit my school or club	70%	30%
B. I would offer to show them around my community	66%	34%
C. I would ask my family if they could stay in my home	58%	42%
D. I am not sure	6%	94%

Section V. Understanding What You Did With iEARN

Directions: We want to know more about your iEARN experience. Please check the appropriate box to the questions listed below.

19. How often per term/semester do you do each of the following when you are working on iEARN project(s)?

"When I work on iEARN projects, I…"	4 or more times a month	1-3 times per month	Less than once a month	Not at all	Don't know or not sure
A. work/collaborate on a project with other students in the same class	40%	32%	13%	15%	
B. work/collaborate on a project with students from another school in my own country	16%	21%	46%	13%	4%
C. work/collaborate on a project with students from another country	21%	25%	25%	22%	7%
D. exchange information with students from another country	27%	22%	33%	6%	12%
E. collect information from books or other sources on a problem or topic	33%	30%	24%	11%	2%
F. collect data for a research project	27%	29%	22%	17%	5%
G. collect evidence to argue a position about a controversial issue	18%	32%	21%	22%	7%
H. write project reports, essays, creative writing, poetry, etc.	35%	37%	16%	11%	1%
I. collect information about another country or culture.	35%	33%	16%	10%	6%
J. communicate with my parents or other members of the community about what I do in iEARN	32%	29%	24%	14%	1%
K. use bulletin boards or listservs	10%	35%	18%	25%	12%
L. use the Internet (World Wide Web)	67%	14%	5%	6%	8%
M. use a search engine to find information on the Internet	57%	22%	8%	8%	5%

N. produce a Web page	**11%**	**13%**	**24%**	**40%**	**12%**

PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

20. How often per term/semester do you do each of the following in your **other classes** (i.e. classes that do NOT use iEARN)

"In my other classes that do not use iEARN, I…"	4 or more times a month	1-3 times per month	Less than once a month	Not at all	Don't know or not sure
A. work/collaborate on a project with other students in the same class	**26%**	**42%**	**11%**	**14%**	**7%**
B. work/collaborate on a project with students from another school in my own country	**13%**	**30%**	**21%**	**29%**	**7%**
C. work/collaborate on a project with students from another country	**11%**	**10%**	**31%**	**40%**	**8%**
D. exchange information with students from another country	**14%**	**16%**	**26%**	**37%**	**7%**
E. collect information from books or other sources on a problem or topic	**36%**	**36%**	**14%**	**10%**	**4%**
F. collect data for a research project	**31%**	**27%**	**23%**	**10%**	**9%**
G. collect evidence to argue a position about a controversial issue	**29%**	**19%**	**21%**	**20%**	**11%**
H. write project reports, essays, creative writing, poetry, etc.	**33%**	**34%**	**20%**	**6%**	**7%**
I. collect information about another country or culture.	**33%**	**19%**	**27%**	**14%**	**7%**
J. communicate with your parents or other members of the community about what I do in school	**29%**	**34%**	**14%**	**16%**	**7%**
K. use bulletin boards or listservs	**16%**	**20%**	**24%**	**27%**	**13%**
L. use the Internet (World Wide Web)	**64%**	**13%**	**6%**	**6%**	**11%**
M. use a search engine to find information on the Internet	**59%**	**17%**	**11%**	**7%**	**6%**

information on the Internet

N. produce a Web page	**9%**	**13%**	**23%**	**47%**	**8%**

21. Have you ever thought about spending time in another country through an exchange program?
    A. Yes   **84%**
    B. No   **16%**

22. If you answered "yes," to Question 21, how much has your interest in an exchange program increased as a result of your participation in iEARN?
    E. Very much   **86%**
    F. Somewhat   **12%**
    G. Not at all   **2%**
    H. Don't know or not sure

23. Have you ever participated in a video conference through your iEARN work?
    A. Yes   **33%**
    B. No   **67%**

24. If you answered "yes" to Question 23, how much did your participation in the video conference: (please check the appropriate box)

"My participation in the video conference …"	Very much	Somewhat	Not at all	Don't know or not sure
A. strengthened my friendships with other iEARN students	**36%**	**41%**	**14%**	**9%**
B. helped me to understand better the issues of iEARN projects	**59%**	**32%**	**5%**	**4%**
C. helped me to understand better the school environments in different cultures and countries	**41%**	**50%**	**9%**	****
D. showed me the value of knowing a different language	**64%**	**27%**	**9%**	****
E. motivated me to visit the country that I connected with through the video conference	**46%**	**32%**	**22%**	****
F. other (please specify)	****	****	****	****

_____

25. Please indicate your overall level of satisfaction with your participation in iEARN
    A. Very satisfied   **71%**
    B. Somewhat satisfied   **21%**
    C. Not very satisfied   **5%**
    D. Not at all satisfied   **3%**

26. Do you have any suggestions for how to improve iEARN?

27. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your iEARN experience?

| Thank you for completing this survey!!!!!! |

Optional: Please feel free to leave us your name and e-mail address so we may contact you with
              follow-up questions (Please print):