



Dear Parents and/or Guardians of Students in Grades 4 and 7

Starting Wednesday, October 1 through to Monday, November 10, 2025, all B.C. students in Grades 4 and 7 will be participating in the B.C. Ministry of Education and Child Care's annual province-wide assessments known as the *Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)*.

Students will complete the assessments in their own classrooms, under the supervision of their classroom teacher or school administrator. The FSA will take your child about 3.75 hours to complete over a few days during the six-week period but if students need more time, they can have it. The assessment includes a *Collaboration Activity*, a *Student Booklet*, some *Online Questions*, and a *Student Self Reflection*.

This province-wide assessment is based on the B.C. curriculum and was created collaboratively by teachers, educational experts, and B.C.'s Ministry of Education and Child Care.

The FSA happens early in the school year to help guide teaching and learning. It ensures you, your child, and your child's teachers and educators have early information on your child's achievement and can respond appropriately to shape learning over the school year in relation to provincial performance standards in selected areas of literacy (understanding and communicating with language) and numeracy (understanding and working with numbers).

These provincial performance standards are internationally acknowledged as being comprehensive and age appropriate. It is not a thorough examination over time of all desired learning outcomes for students. The FSA is one of many measures used to determine how students are progressing and should be considered along with the ongoing assessments and professional judgments carried out by teachers. FSA scores are not part of the evaluations included in students' report cards.

These results are communicated at the provincial level, the school district level, and (confidentially) at the individual student level. The main purpose of the FSA is to help the province, school districts, and schools evaluate a variety of approaches to providing effective educational programs for a diverse range of students.

Close analysis and careful comparisons of FSA scores by professional educators, together with analysis of data from other sources, has enabled school districts to plan for improvements to educational programs. Small differences in results between grades, between parts of the assessment, or from school to school should not be regarded as significant. When comparing results between schools, a variety of demographic, social, and cultural factors need to be considered. The use of FSA results in ranking schools has no validity.

Administering the FSA

The multiple-choice portions of the FSA will be done online, using computers at each school site. Students will be assisted in understanding the online multiple-choice application, and technical



assistance will be provided at each school. The written response portions will be marked within school districts. The marked written responses will be sent to the parents along with the individual student's results.

Who Will Write the FSA?

Parents may receive materials from the British Columbia Teachers' Federation. Please keep in mind that administration of the FSA is a Ministerial Order. It is our legislative responsibility to ensure that this Ministry Assessment is administered, students are supervised, the assessment is completed, and the data from the assessments is collected and transmitted to the Minister. **Writing of the FSA is not optional** and is expected for all students (including French Immersion) in Grades 4 and 7, with very few exceptions.

School Principals will excuse from writing any students with special needs who have Individual Education Plans (IEP) documenting a disability that significantly impacts their performance and English as a Second Language (ESL) students with insufficient levels of English language proficiency to understand the test questions. In addition, Principals may excuse a student in the event of a family emergency, a lengthy illness, or other extenuating circumstances of similar seriousness. **A parent's submission of a form letter to the principal or a tear-off strip from a Teachers' Union letter will not, of itself, constitute proof of extenuating circumstances** and the decision to exclude a student from the FSA rests with the school principal.

I hope this information will clarify any questions you might have had about the upcoming Foundation Skills Assessment. If you require any further information concerning your children's writing of the FSA, please communicate directly with your school Principal.

Additional information on the FSA is available on the BC Ministry of Education's website at:
<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/>

Thank you for your ongoing support of the School District's efforts to provide the best possible educational programs for students in the Pacific Rim School District.

Sincerely,

Peter Klaver, Superintendent
Pacific Rim School District
www.sd70.bc.ca