

Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) for all students in Grades 4 and 7

The Ministry of Education, through the BC's *School Act*, requires that all students in Grades 4 and 7 in B.C. take part in the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA), an annual assessment of reading comprehension, writing, and numeracy (math) skills.

FSA is B.C.'s earliest provincial indicator of student performance and provides strong evidence of future student achievement. The FSA is a required assessment for grade 4 and 7 students and is the first time a student writes a provincial assessment. This year the FSA is scheduled to run from October 4 – November 12, 2021.

The purpose of the FSA is to:

- provide system level information on student performance;
- provide districts and schools with information on student performance;
- support decision-making (interventions, planning, and resource allocation).

The only exceptions are:

- students who have Individual Education Plans (IEPs) documenting a learning disability that significantly impacts their performance and who cannot participate in the assessment, even with adaptations (eg. extended time, a reader or a scribe);
- students with IEPs who would need such extensive adaptations as to create a hardship for the individual students;
- ESL students who have not yet reached a level of proficiency for them to provide meaningful responses.

Principals determine which students, if any, are excused as per the guidelines

above. If it is recommended that your child be excused from one or more components of the FSA, you will be contacted prior to the beginning of the assessment. *A parent's submission of a form letter to the Principal will not, of itself, constitute proof of extenuating circumstances.*



