



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

October 3, 2017

The Honourable Rob Fleming

Minister of Education

PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fleming,

RE: Request that 2017 school FSA results not be published

I am reaching out to you in advance of fall's scheduled Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) testing to encourage a process that prevents the ranking of individual schools based on student outcomes. Boards of Education have been encouraged by your comments regarding the unfairness of ranking schools and the negative implications this has for the K-12 education system. Like you, we recognize the need for appropriate measures of student achievement to help ensure the most effective instructional practices and school district processes are maintained, but this should not result in the current pattern of unintended negative consequences.

Knowing that FSA testing will proceed this fall as scheduled, I would ask that individual school results not be publically released. Any public circulation of school results inevitably leads to the public ranking of schools by outside groups. This ongoing practice is certainly harmful and unfortunate. Perhaps the only solution is not to create consolidated school-based results in the first place.

The BC School Trustees Association would like to work with you and the other education partner groups to find a solution to this ongoing problem. The unnecessary and unwarranted damage to schools must be stopped as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration of our request and the need for a permanent solution to this problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "G B Swan".

Gordon Swan

President

BC School Trustees Association

cc: Scott MacDonald, Deputy Minister of Education
BCSTA Member Boards of Education