

# Request that your child be excused from the FSA

British Columbia Teachers' Federation | 100-550 West 6th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2

Dear Parents,

BC teachers have been actively working with the Ministry of Education and other education stakeholders on new ways to assess our public education system and to protect school and student data.

This year the government-mandated Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) tests are to be given to Grade 4 and 7 students across BC in October and November. As we have for the past several years, teachers are asking you to request that your children be excused from these tests.

The FSA tests do not count toward your children's marks and they do not help students learn or teachers teach.

Teachers have long been concerned about these tests and the misuse of the data by the Fraser Institute to unfairly and inappropriately rank schools. A single written test should never be used to rank the quality of a school, because it ignores the rich variety of learning and experiences students have there. But that is exactly what happens every year and it's time we worked together to end this misleading practice.



The best sources of information about your children's progress are their classroom teachers. Please take the opportunity to reach out any time with your concerns. Your children's teachers will be happy to help.

Glen Hansman, President

Please detach and use the letter to request that your Grade 4 or 7 child be withdrawn from the October and November 2017 FSA testing. 

Dear Principal,

I understand that parents may request, in accordance with the Ministry guidelines concerning exemptions, the principal to excuse a student in the event of a family emergency, lengthy illness, or other extenuating circumstances.

Please excuse my child, \_\_\_\_\_, from the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) tests.

Thank you for your co-operation and for respecting my request.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/guardian signature