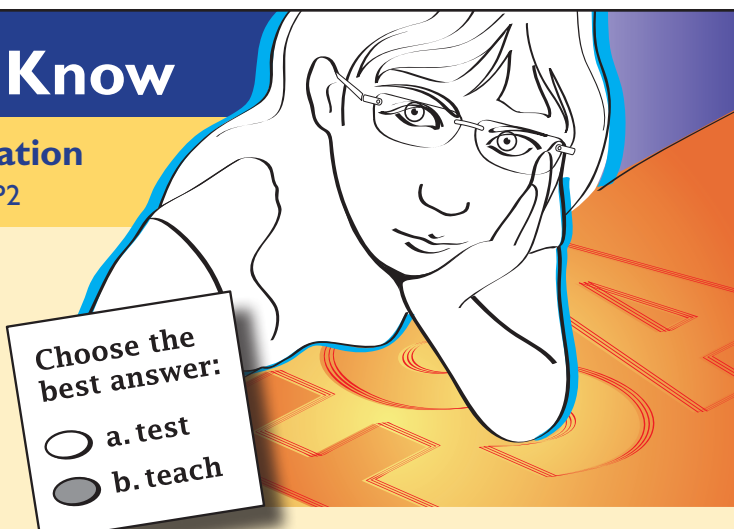


# What Parents Need to Know



**British Columbia Teachers' Federation**

100-550 West 6th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2



Dear Parents,

## The Foundation Skills Assessment

(FSA) is a set of annual provincial tests given to Grade 4 and 7 students in reading comprehension, writing, and numeracy. These tests do not count toward your child's marks nor do the results actively support your child's learning.

- FSA tests are expensive to develop and administer.
- FSA tests do not help students learn, or teachers teach.
- FSA tests take valuable time away from richer and more meaningful learning.
- FSA tests take valuable resources away from the classroom.
- Results are misused to rank schools and promote privatization.
- FSA data does not provide real help to students, parents, or schools.

For all of these reasons, we are recommending that you write a letter to the principal or detach the following letter, requesting that your child be exempted from the FSA. While teachers are being directed to administer it, we cannot in all good conscience recommend that any parent support the administration of the FSA to their child.

Continue to talk with teachers about assessment that works for your child. [bctf.ca/parents.aspx?id=72](http://bctf.ca/parents.aspx?id=72)

Sincerely,

Susan Lambert  
President

Please detach and use the letter to request that your Grade 4 or 7 child be withdrawn from the January and February 2011 FSA testing.



Dear Principal,

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

Please excuse my child, \_\_\_\_\_, from all three Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) tests for the following reason:

- family emergency       lengthy illness       other extenuating circumstances

Thank you for your co-operation.

Sincerely,

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