

Request that your child be excused from the FSA

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

Dear Parents,

For many years, BC teachers have worked with education partners to find ways to assess our public education system that don't include the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA).

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, these government-mandated tests for Grade 4 and 7 students are still scheduled to take place in early 2021. Teachers are asking you to request that your children be excused from these tests. With the COVID-19 pandemic, we believe this is more important than ever.

Students are facing immense pressure and teachers do not want to add to this stress.

Teachers believe these tests are taking away from valuable class time. Now is the time for building community and creating supportive class environments after the pandemic disrupted in-class learning and altered our students' lives.

The FSA tests do not count toward your children's marks and they do not help students learn or teachers teach. Teachers do not believe the FSA is a reliable method of measuring individual progress.

Teachers are concerned with the misuse of data from these tests. FSA data rarely results in more funding and resources to meet our students' needs. However, the Fraser Institute has used the data to unfairly and inappropriately rank schools.



We believe that parents who make an informed decision to ask that their children not write the tests should have their wishes respected.

The best source of information about your children's progress is their classroom teacher. Please take the opportunity to reach out at any time with your questions or concerns. Your children's teachers will be happy to help.



Teri Mooring, President

Please detach and use the letter to request that your Grade 4 or 7 child be withdrawn from the 2021 FSA testing.



Dear Principal,

In accordance with Ministry of Education guidelines concerning exemptions, I understand that administrators may 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 respecting my request.

Sincerely,

Parent/guardian signature