

School Board concerns with FSAs

In recent years, many BC school trustees have voiced their opposition to the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) tests in their current form.

Boards of Education have written the Minister of Education asking that the tests be discontinued, or at least cancelled for this school year.

School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) has expressed their “continued ongoing opposition to the FSA on a province-wide basis for all students in Grade 4 and 7.”

School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) has requested the “cancellation of the Foundation Skills Assessment for the 2020–2021 school year during COVID-19.”

The Board of Trustees for the Nanaimo Ladysmith School District No. 68 have indicated that they will respect the decisions that parents make about their children. At their October 28, 2020 meeting they passed this motion:

That the Board of Education support parents and guardians’ right to free and informed consent regarding their child’s participation in the Foundation Skills Assessment through the direction to Principals to not contact parents in response to the withdrawal of their child from the Foundational Skills Assessment (for the school year 2020/21).

Several other boards of education have written the minister requesting that the FSA results be made available only to district staff and parents, so that they can not be inappropriately used to rank schools.