



September 17, 2024

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)/Caregiver(s) of Students in Grades 4 & 7:

Re: Foundation Skills Assessment 2024

This is the time of year when our students in grades 4 & 7 begin participating in the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA). This annual provincial assessment, measures students' academic skills and provides the District with a snapshot of students' foundational skills in literacy and numeracy. All students in grades 4 & 7 are required by the Ministry of Education and Child Care to participate in FSA.

The District does not use the FSA data to rank or compare schools, teachers, or students. The results of the FSA serve as an important tool to support student learning in SD83. Results from the assessment data assists in supporting the alignment of resources during our annual budget discussions. It is important to note that FSA data is not part of the formal student evaluation process and is not included in student report cards.

Some quick facts about the FSA include:

- The FSA is written in sections that are spread over six weeks between October 1 and November 8, 2024.
- FSA data is not part of the formal student evaluation process and is not included in student report cards.
- Most students required a total of 3.75 hours over those 6 weeks to complete all the components of the FSA. Students requiring additional time are provided with that time.
- The written response section of the FSA is marked within the District by our educators.
- The First Nations Leadership Council of BC strongly supports the FSA, identifying it as an important tool to assist learning and gauge system progress in improving outcomes for Indigenous learners.
- English Language Learning (ELL) students who have not reached a level of proficiency sufficient to provide meaningful responses to the literacy or numeracy sections of the FSA are excused from participating.
- School principals may excuse students whose Individual Education Plan (IEP) documents a learning need, that precludes the student from writing the FSA.
- Principals may excuse a student in the event of a family emergency, lengthy illness, or other extenuating circumstances of similar seriousness.

I trust this information will clarify any questions you may have about the Foundation Skills Assessment. If you remain unconvinced of the FSA's importance and wish your grade four or grade

seven student to be exempt from this month's testing process, please ask your school principal for an FSA testing schedule, then keep your child at home during the testing times. While we are not permitted to excuse a student from the FSA because of a parent request, parents always have the right to keep their child at home, and this right will be respected during FSA testing. As a courtesy in this regard, please note that I have asked the principals not to have students make up the tests later if they were kept at home by parents for the purpose of test exemption.

As always, I thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in your child(ren)'s learning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Donna Kriger', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Donna Kriger
Superintendent of Schools