



Importance of FSA

From the Superintendent's Office - September 2021

What is the FSA?

The FSA (Foundational Skills Assessment) is a set of interactive exercises designed by teachers and education experts that reliably indicates how your child is doing in literacy (understanding and communicating with language) and numeracy (understanding and working with numbers).

Why is the FSA Important?

To ensure that we continue to support successful learning, we routinely check our students' growth and achievement.

An important part of this is the B.C. Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) which is written by students in grades 4 and 7 each year. The FSA assesses basic knowledge and skills in literacy and numeracy. The FSA provides a systems level accountability check to ensure that we are delivering aligned learning experiences for all.

In Chilliwack we use this assessment to inform our instruction, in-service, and our resource allocation for the betterment of student learning.

Student participation on the FSA can greatly inform instruction, in-service, and resource allocation that benefits staff and students.

How Can Parents Help?

- Talk to your child about the FSA. Explain why we complete it and cheer them on. This is a chance for Chilliwack's students to show what they know!
- Ensure your child gets lots of rest and good nutrition.
- Read through the information and help your child try the sample questions at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/assessment/foundation-skills-assessment>



Facts:

1. FSA reflects B.C.'s redesigned curriculum.
2. FSA will be administered during the period of October 4 – November 12, 2021.
3. FSA is a set of interactive activities drawn from the provincial curriculum:
 - a. Literacy (understanding and communicating with language)
 - b. Numeracy (understanding and working with numbers)
4. There is an online section and a hand-written section.
5. FSA includes a group collaboration activity, a choice of reading themes and a self-reflection section.
6. FSA scores are not letter grades or percentages; they do not count toward students' report card marks or promotion.
7. The handwritten section of your child's FSA is scored in Chilliwack, by Chilliwack educators.



How is the FSA conducted in schools?

- All Grade 4 and 7 students in B.C. are required to complete the FSA in their own classrooms, under the supervision of their classroom teacher or school administrator.
- The FSA will take your child about 3.75 hours to complete over a few days during a six week period. The assessment includes online and written questions, a group activity and a reflection exercise.
- Your school principal may excuse your child from writing the FSA if they are not yet proficient in English, if they have an identified cognitive disability, or in the event of extenuating circumstances (e.g. extended illness or family emergency etc.).



What are the results of the FSA used for?

- Results are provided to you, your child, teachers, and the Ministry to ensure B.C. is providing high quality education to all of its students.
- Results ensure that no students are left behind in B.C., regardless of their background.
- The FSA does not contribute to your child's report card and is not used to rank students, teachers, schools or districts.



Why do all students in B.C. write the FSA?

- The FSA is designed to indicate how your child and all students in British Columbia are doing in literacy and numeracy.
- The FSA ensures you, your child and your child's teachers and educators have early information on your child's achievement and can respond appropriately to shape learning over the school year.



What are the **benefits** of the FSA?

For students, parents and caregivers

- You and your child will have an understanding of how your child is doing and what areas may need support.
- Assessment results help shape the support needed to meet the unique needs of every student.

For teachers

- Your child's teacher will have confirmation of how your child is doing and what supports they may need.

For the Ministry of Education

- Your government will have information about how to improve and deliver high quality education for all students in British Columbia.



TO LEARN MORE VISIT:
[www.gov.bc.ca/
foundation-skills-assessment](http://www.gov.bc.ca/foundation-skills-assessment)

CHECK OUT PROVINCIAL ASSESSMENT RESULTS:
[www.gov.bc.ca/student-
assessment-data](http://www.gov.bc.ca/student-assessment-data)



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