



Richmond Teachers' Association

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September 20, 2023

Board of Education
School District No. 38 (Richmond)
7811 Granville Avenue
Richmond, BC V6Y 3E3

Dear Debbie,

Re: RTA Brief – Foundation Skills Assessment

On behalf of the Richmond Teachers' Association, we thank you for the opportunity to submit a brief to the Board.

The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) will be administered in schools this fall, between October 2 to November 10.

The RTA remains concerned about the timing of these tests, the inappropriate use of the FSA data by third parties to rank schools and the pressure exerted by the Ministry of Education on Districts to increase the participation rates of students writing the FSA.

The RTA requests the Board of Education write a letter to the Ministry of Education to alter the timing and length of the FSA, and to ensure the FSA data is protected from inappropriate such as publicly ranking schools.

Further, we request the Board of Education pass a motion of support that ensures parent voice and choice is respected when a parent requests to withdraw their child from writing the FSA.

Attached is communication from the RTA and BCTF about the FSA. This communication includes a QR code that guides the public to the BCTF website where they can find:

- A withdrawal form (attached)
- A link to the MLA campaign requesting MLA support to ensure FSA data is protected from misuse

We thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Liz Baverstock', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Liz Baverstock
President, RTA

cc: Steve Wenglowski, 1st VP, RTA
Frano Marsic, VP, RTA
JW Cho, VP, RTA

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).

These government-mandated tests for students in Grades 4 and 7 are still scheduled to take place this school year. Teachers are asking you to request that your children be excused from these tests according to Ministry of Education and Child Care guidelines concerning exemptions.

Teachers believe that authentic and valuable assessment does not come in the form of mandated and standardized tests, as they do not capture a meaningful snapshot of student progress.

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 or resources to meet our students' needs. Furthermore, 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Clint Johnston'.

Clint Johnston, President

Please detach and use the letter to request that your Grade 4 or 7 child be withdrawn from the 2023 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



**BC teachers believe
student success doesn't
have a postal code.**

**School rankings are harmful to kids
and communities.**

The BC government has an obligation to protect student data from being used to rank schools. The Foundation Skills Assessment doesn't help students learn or teachers teach. It provides no meaningful feedback to parents and it is making existing inequities worse.

You can help. Send a letter to your MLA at bctf.ca/fsa

Parents/guardians of Grade 4 or 7 students have the right to excuse them from this test and the misuse of their data. Scan the QR code to download a withdrawal letter.



A message from the Richmond Teachers' Association
www.richmondteachersassociation.ca