



School Board Office, District No 40
811 Ontario Street
New Westminster, BC V3m 0J7

604 517 6240
info@sd40.bc.ca
newwestschools.ca

September 20, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians of Grade 4 & 7 Students:

During October and November, the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) will be conducted at your child's school. The FSA is an annual, province-wide assessment of foundational skills in reading comprehension, writing and numeracy. It provides schools, districts and the Ministry of Education important information to ensure that we are meeting and improving the educational outcomes for our students.

The FSA is aligned with the BC Curriculum and is designed to be integrated into regular classroom learning experiences in grade 4 and grade 7. There is no need to study or specifically prepare for the FSA, as the assessment mirrors the regular learning experience that happen daily in the classroom. It includes collaborative class activities to boost student confidence and provides a choice of reading selections and writing themes to allow for the greatest student engagement and success. The FSA is administered in the fall to provide teachers with results earlier in the year. These results will help to guide classroom instruction and support learning for all students. The FSA is a required part of the Ministry of Education's assessment program.

Individual FSA results will be shared with parents to provide valuable information about your child's learning strengths and areas of growth. For further information, please refer to the Ministry of Education FSA website, which includes full details of all aspects of the assessment and its use, as well as electronic and written tests that can be used to familiarize your child with the assessment. Please note, that FSA results are not part of our formal report card process and do not impact grades.

The Ministry of Education expects all students to participate in the Foundation Skills Assessment. Students who may require academic or social emotional learning support will be provided with all necessary adaptations to allow for success. In rare circumstances, due to exceptional learning needs, some students will be excluded from all or part of the FSA. Your principal will reach out to you directly if this applies to your child and will consult with you on the best approach to meet your child's needs.

The FSA results serve as a provincial snapshot and provide information about how students in British Columbia are doing as a whole. Again, at the district and school level, the results are used to monitor trends in student achievement and make plans for the improvement of teaching and learning experiences.

If you have any questions about how the FSA will be conducted and the implications for your child, please contact your school principal. For more information, please refer to the FSA website [here](#) and read the FSA Caregiver Information Brochure [here](#).

Sincerely,

Karim Hachlaf
Superintendent of Schools