# Request that your child be excused from the FSA

**British Columbia Teachers' Federation | 100–550 West 6th Avenue, Vancouver, BC  V5Z 4P2**

Dear Parents,

BC teachers continue to work with the Ministry of Education and education partners on better ways to assess our public education system that will benefit students now and in the future.

This year the government-mandated Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) tests for Grade 4 and 7 students will take place in October and November. As we have for the past several years, teachers are asking you to request that your children be excused from these tests. We believe that parents who make an informed decision to ask that their children not write the tests should have their wishes respected.

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. Research says that large-scale assessment is more useful for broadly evaluating the educational system and its programs.

Teachers have long been concerned with the misuse of data from these tests. FSA data rarely results in more funding and resources to meet our students' needs. However, the Fraser Institute has used the data to unfairly and inappropriately rank schools.

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.

Glen Hansman, President

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**Please detach and use the letter to request that your Grade 4 or 7 child be withdrawn from the October and November 2018 FSA testing.** ✂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