

## Foundation Skills Assessment: BCTF Communication

We have been informed that the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) is advising its locals that it is permissible for teachers to send BCTF material regarding issues such as the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) tests home through students. BCPSEA does not agree with that position.

A school district may direct its teachers that students are not to be used as the conduits or couriers for communication of union materials or any materials not approved by the school for distribution through it. A school board is within its lawful right to direct teachers not to use students as the means for conveying union views concerning the FSA tests to parents. Neither the collective agreement nor any applicable legislation gives teachers the right to use students in this manner and to do so can be harmful to public confidence in the public education system.

Teachers also may not use a school/classroom mailing list or a parent directory to obtain mailing addresses for parents of students in their class for the purpose of communicating or mailing out BCTF material. The home addresses of students and parents provided to a school or district are the personal information of the students and parents and can only be used for the purpose for which they were collected; i.e., for school-related purposes, not for the purposes of communicating BCTF views. A school board has the authority to discipline a teacher who disregards a direction about either of these matters.

If you have any questions specific to these issues and your school district, please contact your BCPSEA district liaison.