Request that your child be excused from the FSA
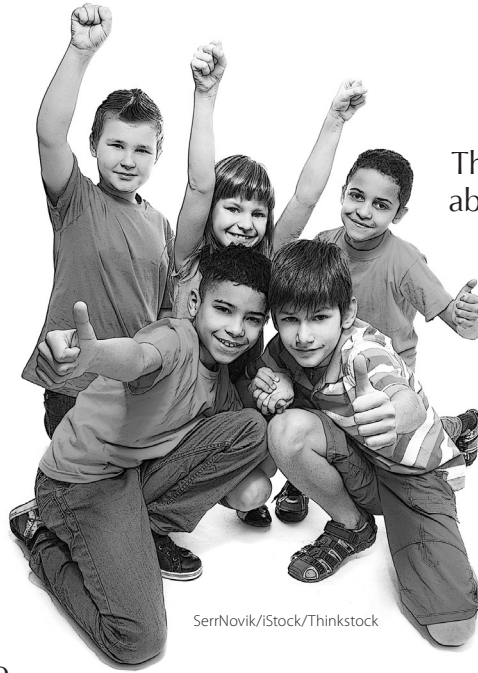
British Columbia Teachers' Federation | 100–550 West 6th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2

Dear Parents,

It's that time of year again when the government-mandated Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) tests are given to Grade 4 and 7 students across BC. This year, as we have for the past several years, teachers are asking you to request that your children be excused from these tests.

The FSA tests do not count toward your children's marks and they do not help students learn or teachers teach. In some cases, they cause unnecessary stress for no real gain. Teachers have long been concerned about these tests and the misuse of the data by an ideological "think tank" called the Fraser Institute to unfairly and inappropriately rank schools.

A single test should never be used to pit school communities against each other. But that is exactly what happens every year and it's time we worked together to end the misleading practice.

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The best source of information about your children's progress is their classroom teacher. Please take the opportunity to reach out any time with your concerns. Your children's teachers will be happy to help.

BC teachers are actively working with the BC government and other education stakeholders on new ways to assess our public education system.

Teachers believe that the FSA is not the right tool for BC schools and students. It's time we all moved on. Let's make 2017 the last year we see the Fraser Institute's harmful rankings.

Glen Hansman, President

Please detach and use the letter to request that your Grade 4 or 7 child be withdrawn from the January and February 2017 FSA testing. ✂

Dear Principal,

I understand that parents may request, in accordance with the ministry guidelines concerning exemptions, the principal to excuse a student in the event of a family emergency, lengthy illness, or other extenuating circumstances.

Please excuse my child,_____, from all three Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) tests.

Thank you for your co-operation and for respecting my request.

Sincerely,

_____
Parent/guardian signature