Request that your child be excused from the FSA

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

BCTF
Kids Matter
Teachers Care

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.

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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.

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Please detach and use the letter to request that your Grade 4 or 7 child be withdrawn from the 2023 FSA testing.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

TFEU