

January 4, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The annual B.C. Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) for all grade 4 and 7 students is set to take place between January 9 and February 17, 2017.

Who must write the Assessment?

- ALL students enrolled in Grade 4 or Grade 7, including students enrolled in a distributed learning program, as well as students enrolled in French Immersion with a small number of exceptions.

Which students do not have to write the Assessment?

- Students who have previously written the FSA. Students write the FSA for a specific grade once only. If a student is retained, she/he does not write a second time;
- Students who have IEPs documenting a disability that significantly impacts their performance in reading, writing or numeracy and who cannot meaningfully participate in all or part of the assessment, even with adaptations;
- Students with IEPs who would need extensive adaptations or who would need such extended periods of time as to create a hardship for the individual student.

Principals identify which students, if any, are excused from one, two or all three components of the FSA. Principals must notify a parent or guardian if they intend to excuse a student from participating in one or more components of the FSA. Such notification should be made prior to the test administration date by letter or telephone call.

Principals may also excuse a student who would normally write the assessment in the event of a family emergency, a lengthy illness or other extenuating circumstances.

As it is the expectation of the Ministry of Education and the School District that all able students in grades 4 and 7 write the assessment, we will be proceeding with testing for all students unless they meet one of the above criteria. If you feel your child has an extenuating circumstance that we are not aware of, please contact your school principal to discuss the situation. The principal will be able to determine whether or not your child may be excused from this year's testing.

If you have further questions or concerns, please contact Assistant Superintendent, Eugene Marks, or myself at 250-567-2284.

Sincerely,



Charlene Seguin

Superintendent of Schools