

VALUE OF THE FSA

Value for parents

Along with classroom assessment information, the FSA provides valuable information to parents on how their child is performing in reading, writing, and numeracy.

Student information for parents

A Student Profile Report is available for each student following administration of the FSA. Teachers and parents/guardians are encouraged to discuss student results together, along with student responses to questions in the student booklet. It is important for parents to discuss FSA results with teachers, as teachers are in the best position to interpret them.

Value for educators

Schools receive information on how their students did on specific types of FSA questions. Teachers can use this information to provide support for students and to inform learning in the coming school year.

Why is it important that all students write the FSA?

FSA results are about more than the overall performance of the provincial school system. All Grade 4 and Grade 7 students are required by BC's School Act to write the FSA because information about every child is important to parents and to schools. When all students write the assessment, parents, teachers, schools, and the province receive accurate information on how students are learning.

Planning for success

There is a strong connection between FSA scores, school completion, and future life success. FSA results also show where individual students excel and where they need assistance. Paying attention to individual student results allows parents and educators to make early interventions that can enhance success later in a child's schooling.

Preparation

Because students engage in reading, writing, and numeracy activities in their regular classroom work, no special preparation is required to prepare for the FSA. Students may try a sample FSA in their class to become familiar with the FSA format.

For more information on the FSA, please visit
<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/assessment-reporting/new-foundation-skills-assessment>

Foundation Skills Assessment

Information for Parents



FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENT

What is the FSA?

The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) is a set of reading, writing, and numeracy assessments administered to BC students every year in Grades 4 and 7. They are the first two of four provincial assessments: Grade 4 FSA, Grade 7 FSA, and the graduation assessments in Literacy and Numeracy.

What is the purpose of the FSA?

The FSA provides a “snapshot” of how well BC students are doing in key foundational areas. The results help answer important questions, such as:

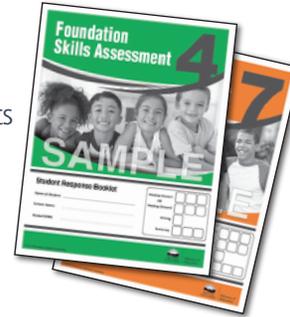
- Are all students learning vital skills they will need in school and in life?
- Is student achievement improving over time?
- Are there any trends in student performance at the school, district, or provincial levels?

FSA Quick Facts

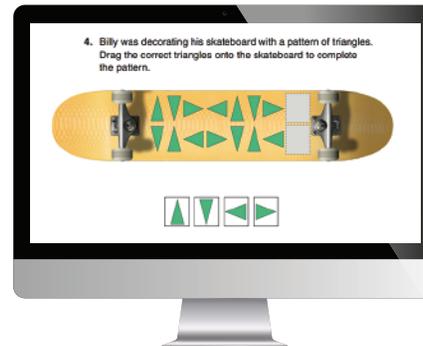
- ➔ Written in Grades 4 and 7
- ➔ Administered in the fall
- ➔ No preparation required
- ➔ Provides important information for parents and teachers on student learning in reading, writing, and numeracy

What does the FSA look like?

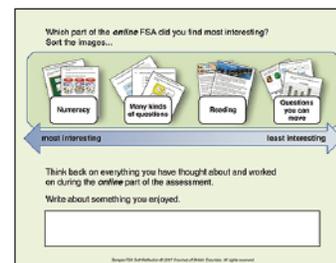
Students write the FSA in the fall. The FSA is administered over six weeks, and most schools spread the assessments over the course of a few days. The assessments take approximately 4.5 hours to complete and are done on paper and on a computer.



All students take part in a group collaboration activity; respond to reading, writing, and numeracy questions in a paper student booklet; and answer a variety of interactive questions on a computer.



Students also have an opportunity to reflect on what they did during the FSA, which provides educators with feedback on the assessment and information on how students are learning.



Who develops the FSA?

Teams of educators from across the province, along with post-secondary assessment experts, develop, trial, review, and refine the questions in the FSA. The educators use their professional experience, together with established test specifications and assessment standards, to ensure that the assessments are developmentally appropriate, of high standards, and accessible to students across the province.

Why did the FSA change?

BC's assessments are regularly reviewed and updated to respond to changes in curriculum. The FSA now reflects BC's new curriculum and current classroom practices, such as providing students with opportunities for collaboration and reflection. The assessment also provides students with a choice in reading themes, and more interactive questions in the online component of the assessment.

Students now write the FSA in the fall instead of the winter. This important change means teachers receive student results earlier, providing information on what students know, can do, and understand at the beginning of the school year. This will help teachers and schools make decisions to support student learning.

