

February 2021

Dear Saanich Parents/Guardians:

FSA - Foundation Skills Assessment

This year the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) will be given to all grade 4 and grade 7 students throughout the province in February and March 2021.

The redesigned Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) is aligned with the redesigned curriculum and reflects the recommendations from the Advisory Group on Provincial Assessment (AGPA). The FSA has a focus on collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and the foundations of literacy and numeracy.

While we acknowledge that concerns about the FSA are expressed by organizations and individuals across the province, we also know that the data can be used by the district in a way that supports instruction. We would like you to know the following:

- The FSA will include online and written components.
- The FSA is an inclusive assessment and will accommodate students whose Individual Education Plan (IEP) indicates specific learning adaptations and strategies.
- Principals will notify parents of any student whose Individual Education Plan indicates a rationale for exclusion from FSA.
- Parents may request that Principals excuse their children from the FSA in the event of family emergency, extended illness or extenuating circumstances. Contact your Principal if any of these criteria apply to your child.
- Students who do not take part in one or more of the components of FSA will be scored as "performance level unknown."

More information about the FSA can be found on the Ministry of Education web site at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/assessment/foundation-skills-assessment>

Please contact your school Principal if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P McKenzie".

Paul McKenzie
Assistant Superintendent

PM/skd