

FSA's

As we approach the middle of January our grade seven students will be participating in Foundation Skills Assessments. To give you additional information regarding the Foundation Skills Assessment I have included information regarding the FSA, the Value for Parents, and the Value for Monterey. The Foundation Skills Assessments are not meant to be comprehensive, but are meant to be added to all of the information you get from your child's teachers-assignment results, classroom test marks, and report cards. The more informed you are as a parent, the better able you are to support your child as a learner.

What is FSA?

The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) is a set of reading, writing and numeracy tests administered each winter to B.C. students in grades 4 and 7. The FSA does not measure students' ability to memorize specific facts; it measures reading, writing and math problem-solving skills that students have gained during several years of learning. Some of the questions are easy and some are more challenging. Students answer the multiple choice questions on the computer and do their written work in a booklet that goes home to parents by March 31, along with the student's overall assessment results. FSA results do not count toward student grades.

Value for Parents

FSA is meant to complement – not replace –classroom learning. Along with classroom assessment, FSA provides valuable information to parents on how their child is performing in reading, writing and numeracy.

Value for Monterey

Schools get information on how groups of students did on specific types of FSA questions. Using information from FSA, the Ministry of Education works with school districts to provide support for students and to improve teaching and learning for the coming school year.

The results of these tests in Reading, Writing, and Math provide us with data that we can use for planning at the provincial, district, and school level. At Monterey we use the data as one indicator of whether our efforts are resulting in students who are performing well in these core subject areas. FSA results are one of the pieces of evidence that our School Planning Council will look at in this regard. We will look for trends over time in student performance in Reading, Writing, and Math so that we can identify areas in which we are doing well and areas in which more focused attention is required. We also look at school data such as the school-wide write, student progress and other information from students, staff and parents. As far as the relevance of the information for you as parents, the FSA results give you one more piece of information about how your child is doing and whether his/her progress in Reading, Writing, and Math is exceeding, meeting, or not yet meeting expectations when compared to children of this age all across our province.





The higher the participation rate by our grade seven students, the more relevant the data, so I am hoping that most of our students will complete the tests.

Grade 7 Satisfaction Survey Information

Satisfaction Surveys usually arrive in February and they too are aimed at grade seven students, but also include a survey for parents and staff. These surveys gather opinions from students, parents and school staff on achievement, human and social development, and safety. Grade seven students will complete the online surveys at school. Parents of grade seven students will be given log on instructions and passwords so they can complete the surveys electronically as well. The results from this survey are also used in our school and district planning as we strive to provide excellence in education.