



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 61 (GREATER VICTORIA)
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November 27, 2018

via email: educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045,
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

Re: Foundation Skills Assessment

Dear Minister Fleming,

Our Board has significant concerns about the Foundation Skills Assessment, and as a result we recently passed the following motion:

That the Board direct the Chair to write a letter to the Minister of Education articulating our concern with the current approach to the administration, release and use of the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA), and advocating: 1) that the administration of the FSA be done so as to eliminate the unfair and damaging ranking of schools; and 2) that the Ministry undertake an evaluation of the FSA in order to determine its utility within the context of the innovative new BC curriculum.

With this motion, we are asking you to address the long-standing issues that have undermined both the reliability and the validity of the FSA results. Of particular concern is low participation rates, inappropriate use of results by the Fraser institute, and the expenditure of valuable classroom time on assessments that are outdated and incongruent with the newly designed curriculum.

We believe that through meaningful collaboration with your education partners, provincial assessment can be brought into alignment with our exciting new curriculum. Moreover, we are hopeful that provincial assessment of student learning can be used to improve student achievement and strengthen public education, which currently is not the case.

We urge the Ministry to demonstrate leadership in addressing these issues.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jordan Watters".

Jordan Watters
Chair, Board of Education

Cc: Shelley Green, Superintendent of Schools
BCSTA