



Coast Mountains Board of Education School District 82

3211 Kenney Street, Terrace, BC V8G 3E9
Tel. (250) 635-4931 or 1-855-635-4931 • www.cmsd.bc.ca

September 20, 2022

Dear Parents & Guardians:

As per the British Columbia School Act, Coast Mountains School District 82 will be administering the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) to all grade 4 and 7 students between October 3rd and November 10th, 2022. The FSA is intended to show how well learners are developing in basic reading, writing and numeracy skills over time - a check-in so to speak that aligns with provincial curriculum and expectations for learners.

A key goal within our Board of Education's new Strategic Plan 'Engage, Ignite, Empower' is focused on *all students realizing their full potential*, and a continued focus on improving the essential skills of literacy and numeracy is critical to this work. **Teachers and school staff are working diligently toward this outcome in their classrooms, and the FSA is one of several important ways that we ensure children are succeeding at school and are on track with their learning.**

Some quick facts about the FSA include:

- The FSA is designed by BC teachers and education experts to assess your child's progress with reading, writing and numeracy.
- The FSA is written in sections that are spread over six weeks (Oct. 3rd – Nov. 10th). Most students require a total of 4.5 hours over those 6 weeks to complete all the components of the FSA. Students requiring additional time are provided with that time.
- Parents and guardians receive a summary of their child's progress on the FSA and can discuss this with the school if they have questions. FSA scores are not included on report cards.
- The First Nations Leadership Council of BC strongly supports the FSA, identifying it as an important tool to assist learning and gauge system progress in improving outcomes for Indigenous learners.

All grade 4 and 7 students are expected to write this assessment. Accommodations are available if needed and as documented in a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP). School principals can exempt students from writing the FSA only in case of a family emergency, a lengthy illness, or other extenuating circumstances.

Thank you for your support of the Foundational Skills Assessment and ongoing partnership in your children's learning.

Sincerely,

Aaron Callaghan
Superintendent of Schools