

# Foundation Skills Assessment

Information for DPAC  
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New  
Westminster  
Schools

# What is the Foundation Skills Assessment?

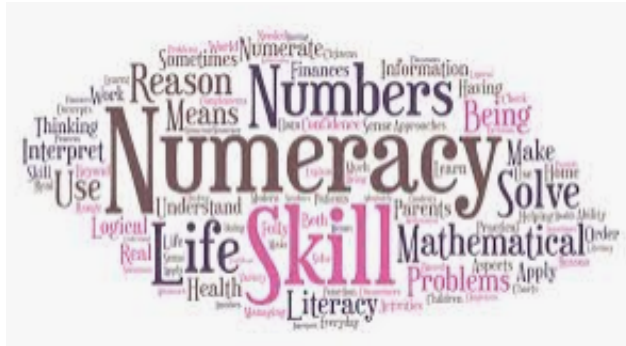
- not your typical test!
- a **set of learning activities** that demonstrate essential skills in reading, writing & numeracy
- all provincial assessments are:
  - developmentally appropriate
  - created, refined and evaluated by educators
  - aligned with curriculum & best practices in assessment
  - accessible to all students across the province

Grade	Annual Provincial Assessment(s)
4	FSA: Reading, Writing, Numeracy
7	FSA: Reading, Writing, Numeracy
10	Graduation Numeracy Assessment Graduation Literacy Assessment
12	Graduation Literacy Assessment



<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/assessment/foundation-skills-assessment>

# Purpose of Foundation Skills Assessment



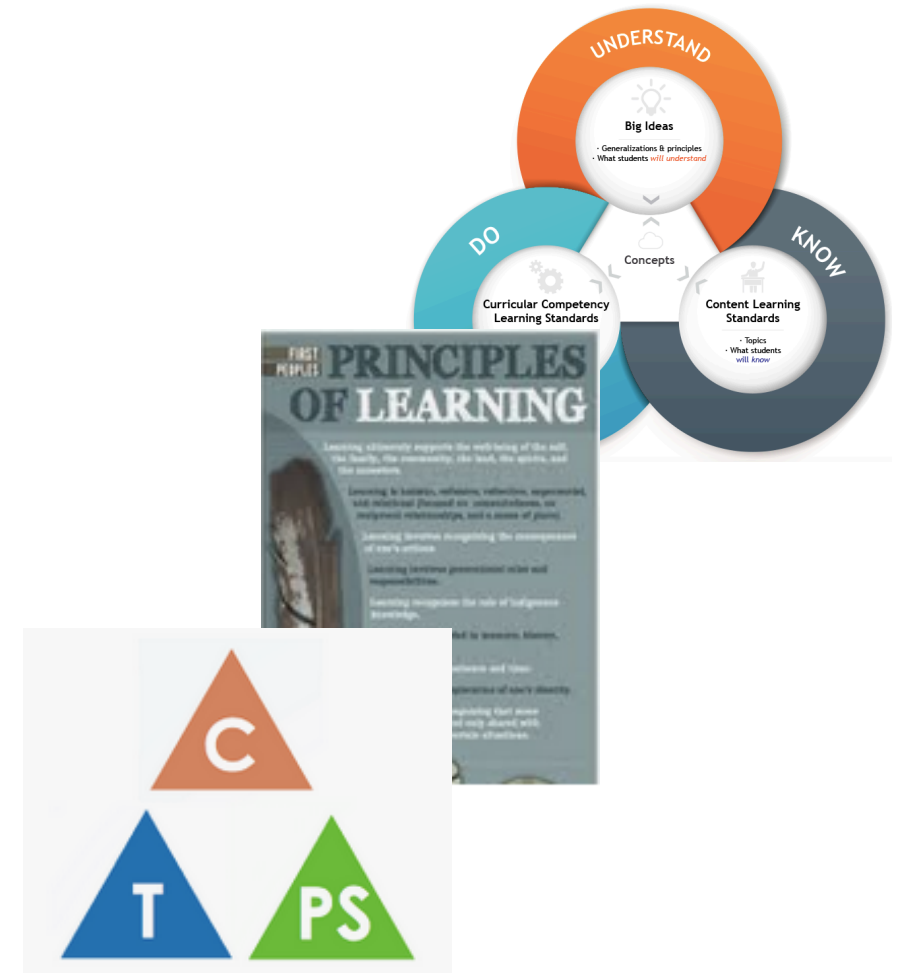
FSA provides a “snapshot” of how well BC students are doing in key foundational areas

- Are all students learning vital skills they will need in school & in life?
- Is student achievement improving over time?
- What trends are we seeing?
- How can we support teaching and learning experiences to improve results over time?



# Integration with the Curriculum

- Students engage in reading, writing, and numeracy activities in their regular classroom work; no special preparation is required for the FSA
- We are **always** teaching to the test—it is **not** content based; it is skill based—skills developed **up to** Grade 4 and **up to** Grade 7
- Best preparation- foster a positive attitude & encourage students to try their best!





# FSA Components

## Student Booklets:

**Reading** Theme 1  
Information Text- 1 question  
Literacy Text-1 question  
1 connecting question

**Reading** Theme 2  
Information Text- 1 question  
Literacy Text-1 question  
1 connecting question

### Writing

1 open ended writing prompt

### Numeracy

3 questions-application of skills

### Self-Reflection

## Online Components:

**Reading** 5 short texts, 30 questions

### Numeracy

Number, Fluency, Pattern, Geo & Measurement, Data and Probability-30 questions

### Self-Reflection

FSA test format changed in 2016/2017 to align with the redesigned curriculum  
All components will take about 4-5 hours to complete in total, spread over Feb 12-March 15

# Who Writes the FSA?

All Grade 4 & 7 students are required by BC's School Act to write the FSA

Exceptions:

## School Initiated Exclusions

- Students with moderate to profound intellectual disabilities
- ELL students who have not reached a level of proficiency to meaningfully respond to the questions

## Parent Initiated Exclusions

- Extenuating circumstances-consultation with the school

District Exclusion Tracking—schools must send the DOI a list of students who are excluded, the reason why, and confirmation that the parents/guardians were consulted



# Supports Provided: Accommodations

Accommodation	All Students	IEP Students
extra time	X	X
supervised breaks	X	X
separate setting	X	X
word processor with spellcheck	X	X
calculator	X	X
large print	X	X
reading of instructions/texts	X	X
braille		X
reader and scribe		X
speech to text/text to speech		X
any other accommodations recommended by School Based Team		X

**Classroom Teachers, Learning Support Teachers, Principals, Vice-Principals and Educational Assistants work together to support student success on the FSAs**


# Benefits of FSA Data

## Data provided to:

- **Teachers:** provides individual student data, identifies students who may require more support, acts as a “check and balance” of assessment strategies
- **Schools:** goal setting and prioritization for School Learning Plans & supports for classroom teachers
- **Districts & Province:** system check on trends in curriculum, assessment and evaluation, goal setting, resources, training and professional development
- **Parents:** provides a snapshot of their child’s skill level in Numeracy and Literacy in relation to curriculum standards set by the Ministry

## Challenges:

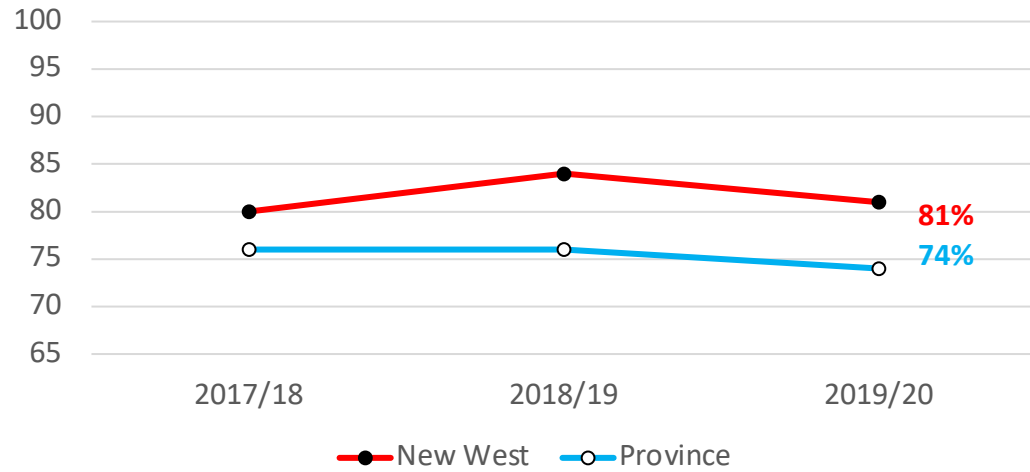
- Results are public and can be accessed by a variety of agencies/groups (e.g. Fraser Institute)
- Memorandum of Understanding (2013 to present): BCTF and BCPSEA regarding the distribution of union materials to parents

Proficiency Scale				
	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
	The student demonstrates an initial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a partial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a complete understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.

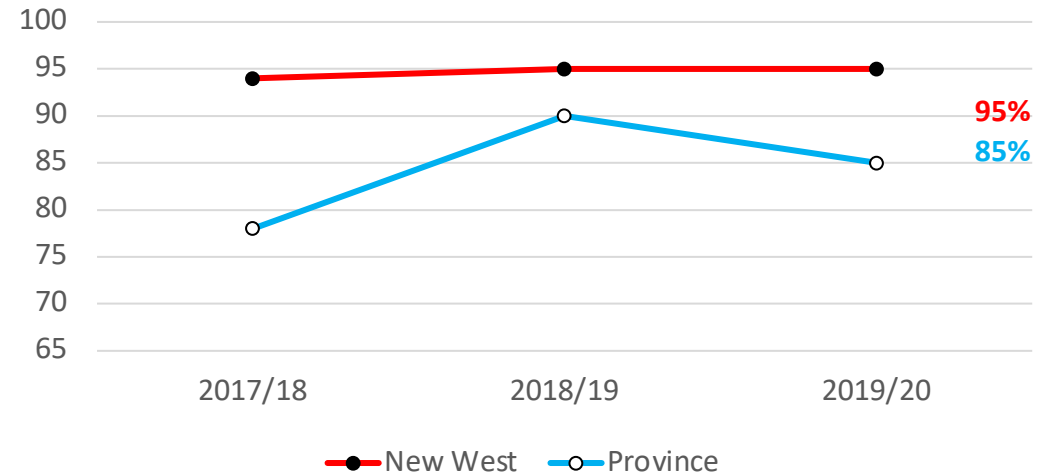


# FSA 3 Year Trend Grade 4

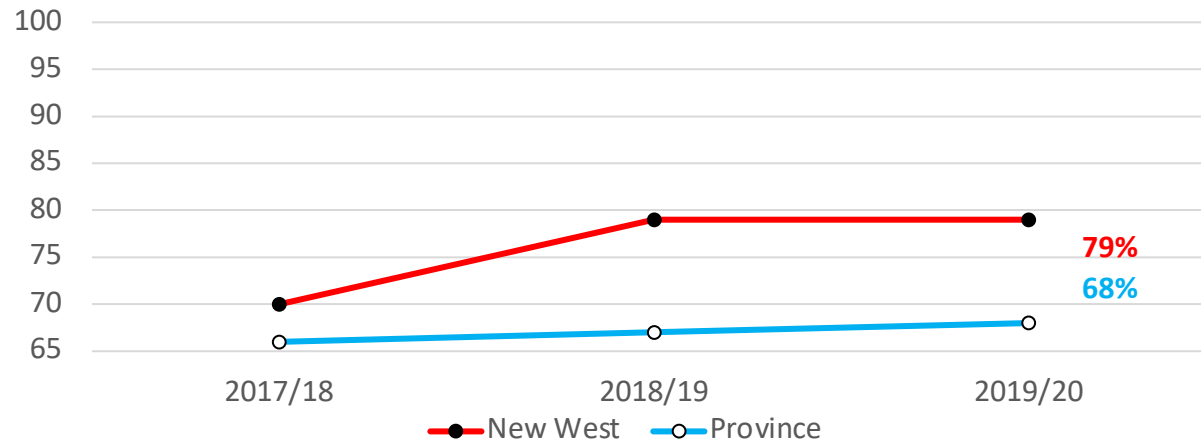
## Reading Comprehension



## Writing



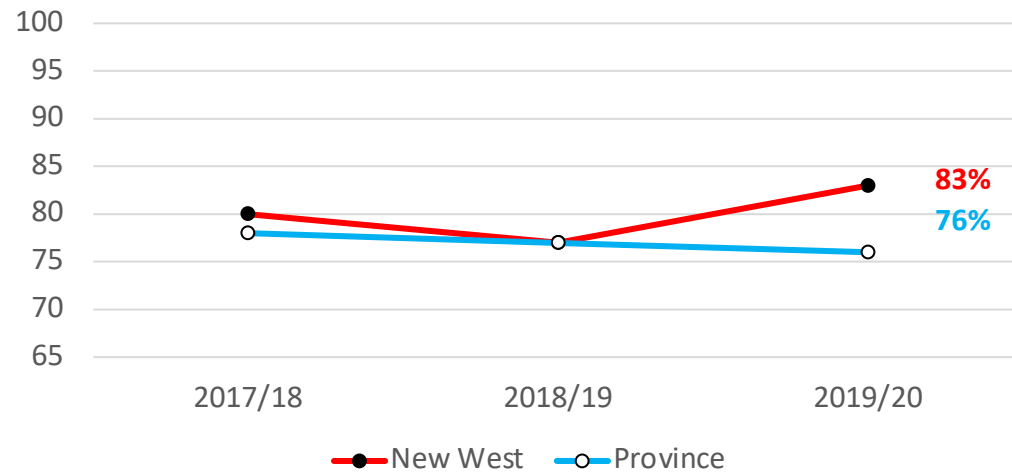
## Numeracy



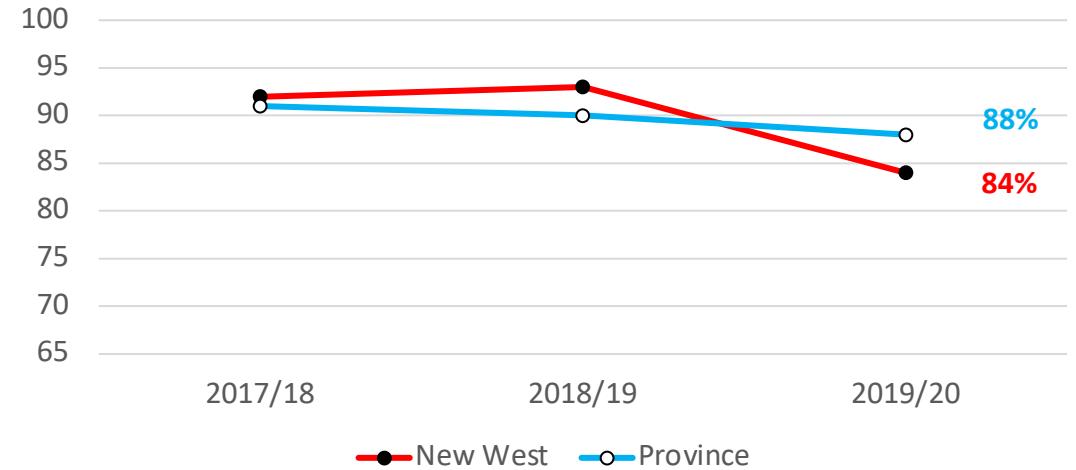
Percentage of students "on track" or "extending"

# FSA 3 Year Trend Grade 7

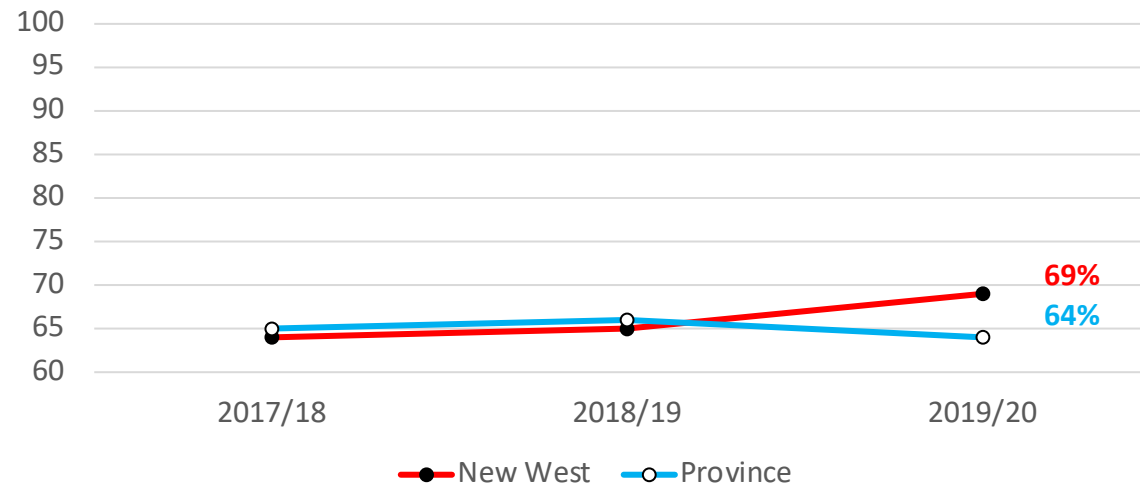
## Reading Comprehension



## Writing



## Numeracy



Percentage of students “on track” or “extending”

# Taking Action Based on Data:

Literacy K-8	Numeracy K-8
Leveled Literacy Intervention System	Mathletics: elementary and middle
Classroom books (English and French)	Mathology books K-5
Professional Development: Book Club, Literature Circles, A Balanced Reading Program and more	PR1Me Math pilot K-8 Online Program
SIMBI online books	Math Curriculum Facilitator
Media Centre: Literacy Kits	Professional Development
Curriculum Facilitators	Grade 6 Math Intervention Program
District Teacher Librarian: workshops, resources	Math Innovation Grants
Innovation Grants- baseline assessments, interventions	Math Book Clubs: Teachers, Admin

# Additional Information:

- Schools & Districts receive their FSA results; Principals share results with their community
- At the District level, results are shared with Board of Education and on website
- The MOE provides funding for curriculum & assessment
- Students in the K-8 Online Program will work with our District VPs for online invigilation
- Students who do not take the FSA do not impact results; results reflect “writers only”.
- FSA participation rates are tracked—we are typically well over 80% participation
- French Immersion students write the FSA in English--provincial data shows that there is no impact on FI students' test scores
- Public Data Site: <https://studentsuccess.gov.bc.ca/school-district/040>