

September 23, 2025

Dear Parents, Elders, Guardians, and Community Members,

The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA), a key tool introduced in 2000 for students in Grades 4 and 7, measures foundational skills in literacy and numeracy. The results provide essential data that helps our district and the province understand student progress and inform educational improvements.

While standardized testing like the FSA has faced some criticism, the data it provides remains crucial for identifying where students may need additional support. For our school district, higher participation rates create more complete and reliable data. This valuable data allows the Board to make evidence-based decisions that directly improve programming, allocate resources effectively, and ultimately enhance student outcomes across the district.

The First Nations Education Steering Council (FNESC) has consistently emphasized the importance of the FSA. The data gathered provides a vital measure to help FNESC and other organizations advocate for and direct support to Indigenous learners both locally and provincially. This aligns with our district's commitment to improving education for all students, particularly those who have been historically underserved.

Although some organizations have encouraged non-participation, it is important to recognize that the FSA results are still utilized at the school and district level to identify students who are struggling. Early identification allows for timely intervention and targeted support, which can have a significant positive impact on a student's academic journey. As valuable FSAs are, they are one of many tools educators use to evaluate student progress.

The Mission Public Schools Board of Education supports the stance of FNESC and other Indigenous leadership organizations who have advocated for the FSA's importance. We continue to see its value as a tool that contributes to improving the education of all students in our community.

Therefore, we encourage all families to have their children participate in the Foundation Skills Assessment. By doing so, you are helping us gather the comprehensive data necessary to ensure that every student receives the support they need to succeed.

Thank you for your support in this important effort. If you have any questions or would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact the board at trustees@mpsd.ca.

Sincerely,



Tracy Loffler
Board Chair

On behalf of the Mission School Board of Education

- <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/sites/curriculum.gov.bc.ca/files/pdf/assessment/fsa/en-foundation-skills-assessment-for-parents-and-caregivers.pdf>
- <http://www.mpsd.ca/Programs-Services/parents/FSA>