Definitions for Open Data - Foundation Skills Assessment

Column	Definition
[Definition of extract]	This extract contains student outcome data for the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) at the provincial and district levels. School level data is not included. With very limited exceptions, the FSA is taken each year by all students in Grades 4 and 7 in BC public schools and publicly funded independent schools. The data in this table begins with school year 2021/2022. The results are considered a new dataset (compared to the data for the range 2017/18-2020/21) since the assessment combines reading and writing skills to form the Literacy component, and because a new vendor administered the assessment resulting in a different user experience.
[Technical Notes]	Homeschooled Children: While some homeschooled children may choose to participate in provincial assessments, they are not required to do so. As such, homeschooled children's results are not included in public reports. 'Msk' (masked) values are for numbers fewer than 10, to prevent the identification of individual writers.
[Key References]	Ministry of Education: Reporting on K-12 Glossary of Terms Kindergarten-12 Data Collections (includes info on 1701 form) Public Independent/Offshore Ministry of Education: Foundational Skills Assessment
SCHOOL_YEAR	The school year that commences on July 1 and ending the following June 30, within which the assessment session date falls. For this data mart the earliest school year is '2021/2022'.
DATA_LEVEL	Use this column to select results at the province or district level. Values: 'District Level' 'Province Level'

Column	Definition
PUBLIC_OR_INDEPENDENT	Use this column to select only public schools, independent schools, or both school types. Values: 'BC Independent School' 'BC Public School' 'Province-Total' (= a rollup of both school types)
DISTRICT_NUMBER	The current number of the school district. This is only for public schools. This value is a 3-digit string (e.g., 005, 023). However, leading zeros may be automatically removed when opening the file in Excel. See the document *Working with the FSA 2021/22 onward extract* for tips on how to prevent this from happening. For the actual name of the district, please see the column DISTRICT_NAME.
DISTRICT_NAME	The current name of the school district. This does not include independent school authorities. For the number of the district, please see the column DISTRICT_NUMBER.
SUB_POPULATION	Use this column to select a subset of the student population. Set this column to 'All Students' to see how all students performed. Values: 'All Students' 'Diverse Abilities' (formerly 'Special Needs') 'Indigenous' 'Non Diverse Abilities' (formerly 'Non Special Needs') 'Non Indigenous' Some of these values are binary (mutually exclusive). The binary pairs are 'Indigenous' and 'Non Indigenous'; 'Diverse Abilities' and 'Non Special Needs'. 'Diverse Abilities' includes all 12 categories: A - Physically Dependent B - Deafblind C - Moderate to Profound Intellectual Disability D - Physical Disability or Chronic Health Impairment E - Visual Impairment F - Deaf or Hard of Hearing G - Autism Spectrum Disorder H - Intensive Behaviour Interventions or Serious Mental Illness K - Mild Intellectual Disabilities P - Gifted Q - Learning Disability R - Students Requiring Behaviour Support or Students with Mental Illness

Column	Definition
GRADE	The grade level of the FSA test. The values are '4' and '7'.
FSA_SKILL_CODE	The FSA test subject. Values: 'Literacy' 'Numeracy'
NUMBER_EXPECTED_WRITERS	The number of students expected to participate in the FSA. Since the Ministry of Education expects all students to participate as of 2008, the value represents all students in the selected demographic. A Student Expected to Participate is defined as: • A student who has written at least one portion of the FSA test; OR, • A student that has been entered into the source system either by a preload of September enrolments or as an addition by the school AND did not write an exam component AND was not marked as "No longer enrolled" by the school.
NUMBER_WRITERS	The number of students in the selected demographic that participated in the FSA.
NUMBER_UNKNOWN	The value represents the number of students who were expected to participate but made no attempt to write.
NUMBER_EMERGING	The number of students performing at an emerging level for their grade on a test result.
NUMBER_ONTRACK	The number of students performing at an on-track level for their grade on a test result.
NUMBER_EXTENDING	The number of students performing at an extending level for their grade on a test result.

Column	Definition
AVG_SCORE	This is the average score for the district or province. This score is calculated by totalling individual scores and dividing by the count of students. The calculation includes only scores and counts for **students who wrote**. All FSA Numeracy and Literacy items are calibrated using Item Response Theory (IRT) for equating purposes. This calibration allows for the difficulty of items to be weighted, based on actual student responses. IRT equating also allows for more precise comparisons for results from one year to the next. The IRT Scaled Score ranges from 200 to 800 for Numeracy and Literacy. FSA open-ended question (also called written response or constructed response) scores do not undergo the IRT process. The questions are initially scored between 0 and 4. Where a score of '0' exists, this indicates that the students were expected to participate in the FSA test yet made no attempt to write the test. It uses IRT_SCALE_SCORE where available, and RAW_SCORE for Writing since there was no IRT performed on the old Writing assessments. If the FSA_SKILL_NAME = 'Reading', 'Literacy' or 'Numeracy', then it's the AVG(IRT_SCALE_SCORE) if FSA_SKILL_NAME = Writing then it's the AVG(RAW_SCORE) Calculation: AVG(SCORE) For Numeracy and Literacy in this data set, the AVG_SCORE column is the average of the IRT_SCALE_SCORE (in the Education Data Warehouse): sum(IRT_SCALE_SCORE)/sum(WRITER_CNT)
MEDIAN_SCORE	The median score of the selected group. This is the value that's exactly in the middle of a dataset when it's ordered.
STDEV_SCORE	The standard deviation score of the selected group. This is a measure of the amount of variation of a random variable expected about its mean. A low standard deviation indicates that the values tend to be close to the mean of the set, while a high standard deviation indicates that the values are spread out over a wider range. The standard deviation is commonly used in the determination of what constitutes an outlier and what does not.