

Working with the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) extract from DataBC

Understanding the FSA data extract	Read the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>FSA 2017/18 – 2020/21 field definitions</i>• Ministry of Education data masking policy
How can I work with this data set in Microsoft Excel?	The following tutorials may be helpful: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Auto-filtering in Excel• Keeping leading zeros and large numbers in Excel

Conventions in this document

BOLDED_WITH_UNDERSCORES	Indicates a column name (for example, SUB_POPULATION)
'Text within single quotation marks'	Indicates a column value (for example, 'Special Needs')

Instructions

1. Open your local copy of the file.
2. Apply auto-filtering to the heading row. (This is not essential, but it makes it easier to work with the data when you have more than a screen's worth of rows.)
3. Use the auto-filter on the **DATA_LEVEL** column to select 'District Level' or 'Province Level'.
4. The next column to work with depends on which value you just selected:
 - If you selected 'Province Level', use **PUBLIC_OR_INDEPENDENT** to set which schools to include in your FSA results (public, independent, or province total).
 - If you selected 'District Level', use either **DISTRICT_NUMBER** or **DISTRICT_NAME** to select the district whose FSA results you want to see. (Note that independent schools do not belong to school districts.)
5. Use **SUB_POPULATION** to select the grouping of interest (for example, 'All Students').
6. To remove all masked data ('Msk'), use the auto-filter to deselect 'Msk' from the following columns:
 - **NUMBER_EXPECTED_WRITERS**
 - **NUMBER_WRITERS**
 - **NUMBER_UNKNOWN**
 - **NUMBER_EMERGING**
 - **NUMBER_ONTRACK**
 - **NUMBER_EXTENDING**
 - **SCORE**

7. Use the auto-filter on **SCHOOL_YEAR** to select data from a specific school year (e.g. '2019/2020').
8. Use **FSA_SKILL_CODE** to select a subject of the FSA test ('Numeracy', 'Reading', 'Writing').

Sample Questions

Question:

How many Grade 4 students in independent schools province-wide were expected to write the FSA for Numeracy in 2019/2020?

Path to answer:

1. Filter **DATA_LEVEL** to 'Province Level'
2. Filter **PUBLIC_OR_INDEPENDENT** to 'BC Independent School'
3. Filter **SCHOOL_YEAR** to '2019/2020'
4. Filter **FSA_SKILL_CODE** to 'Numeracy'
5. Filter **GRADE** to '4'
6. Filter **SUB_POPULATION** to 'All Students'
7. Column I (**NUMBER_EXPECTED_WRITERS**) = 6,860

Question:

How many Grade 7 non special needs students in Prince George school district were on track on the FSA for Reading in 2020/2021?

Path to answer:

1. Filter **DATA_LEVEL** to 'District Level'
2. Filter **DISTRICT_NAME** to 'Prince George'
3. Filter **SCHOOL_YEAR** to '2020/2021'
4. Filter **SUB_POPULATION** to 'Non Special Needs'
5. Filter **FSA_SKILL_CODE** to 'Reading'
6. Filter **GRADE** to '7'
7. Column M (**NUMBER_ONTRACK**) = 520