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, district, and school levels. 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 is for the school year range **2007/08-2016/17**. Measures were considerably different prior to 2007/2008 and after 2016/17, so those are not included in this data set.
[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** https://studentsuccess.gov.bc.ca/glossary **Kindergarten-12 Data Collections (includes info on 1701 form)** https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/data-collections Public Independent/Offshore **Ministry of Education: Foundational Skills Assessment** https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/assessment/foundation-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.
DATA_LEVEL	Use this column to select results at the province or district level. Values: 'PROVINCE LEVEL' 'DISTRICT LEVEL' 'SCHOOL LEVEL'
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)

Column	Definition
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 2007/08-2016/17 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.
SCHOOL_NUMBER	The eight-digit numerical identifier assigned to the school by the Ministry of Education. This is also known as the MINCODE ("Ministry Code"). The first three digits are often the district number (geographic district number). However, leading zeros may be automatically removed when opening the file in Excel See *Working with the FSA 2007/08 – 2016/17 extract* guide for tips on how to prevent this from happening. For the actual name of the school, please see the column SCHOOL_NAME.
SCHOOL_NAME	The name of the school. For the number of the school, please see the column SCHOOL_NUMBER.

Column	Definition

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'
	'INDIGENOUS'
	'NON INDIGENOUS'
	'NON SPECIAL NEEDS'
	'SPECIAL NEEDS'
	
	Some of these values are binary; in other words, they are mutually exclusive. The binary pairs are 'INDIGENOUS' and 'NON INDIGENOUS'; 'SPECIAL NEEDS' and 'NON SPECIAL NEEDS'.
	
	'SPECIAL NEEDS' 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

GRADE	The grade level of the FSA test. The values are '4' and '7'.
FSA_SKILL_CODE	The FSA test subject. Values: 'Numeracy' 'Reading' 'Writing'
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.

Column	Definition
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_BELOW	The number of students who have not yet met expectations for their grade on the FSA. It excludes the count of "NUMBER_UNKNOWN".
NUMBER_MEETING	The number of students who have met expectations for their grade on the FSA.
NUMBER_EXCEEDING	The number of students who have exceeded expectations for their grade on the FSA.
SCORE	The mean score for the school, 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**. The result is rounded up to 5 decimal points. The values will include two score types, depending upon the subject. FSA Reading ("RE") and Numeracy ("NU") scores are calibrated using Item Response Theory (IRT). IRT calibration allows for the difficulty of items to be weighted, based on actual student responses. IRT Scaled Scores range from 200 to 800. See [Key References] for more information. FSA Writing ("WR") scores do not undergo the IRT process. WR scores are raw scores (sum of value of correct items).