

Definitions for Open Data - Foundation Skills Assessment

Column	Definition
[Definition of extract]	<p>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.</p> <p>The data in this table begins with school year 2007/2008. Measures were considerably different prior to 2007/2008, and are not included in this data set.</p>
[Technical Notes]	<p>Homeschooled Children</p> <p>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.</p>
[Key References]	<p>Ministry of Education: Reporting on K-12 Glossary of Terms https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/glossary.php <i>If you are unsure of the definition for a term or value, check here.</i></p> <p>Ministry of Education: Foundational Skills Assessment http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/assessment/foundation-skills-assessment</p>
SCHOOL_YEAR	<p>The school year that commences on July 1 and ends the following June 30, based on the session of the assessment.</p> <p>For this data set, the earliest school year is '2007/2008'.</p>
DATA_LEVEL	<p>Use this column to select results at the province-, district-, or school-level.</p> <p>Values: 'PROVINCE LEVEL', 'DISTRICT LEVEL', 'SCHOOL LEVEL'</p>
PUBLIC_OR_INDEPENDENT	<p>Use this column to select only public schools, independent schools, or both school types.</p> <p>Values: 'BC Independent School' 'BC Public School' 'PROVINCE - Total' (= a rollup of both school types)</p>
DISTRICT_NUMBER	<p>The number of the school district.</p> <p>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 <i>Working with _</i> guide for tips on how to prevent this from happening.</p> <p>For the actual name of the district, please see the column DISTRICT_NAME.</p> <p>For independent schools, the values in this column will be blank.</p>

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DISTRICT_NAME	<p>The name of the school district.</p> <p>For the number of the district, please see the column DISTRICT_NUMBER.</p> <p>For independent schools, the values in this column will be blank.</p>
SCHOOL_NUMBER	<p>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 <i>Working with _</i> guide for tips on how to prevent this from happening.</p> <p>For the actual name of the school, please see the column SCHOOL_NAME.</p>
SCHOOL_NAME	<p>The name of the school.</p> <p>For the number of the school, please see the column SCHOOL_NUMBER.</p>
SUB_POPULATION	<p>Use this column to select a subset of the student population. Set this column to 'ALL STUDENTS' to see how all students performed.</p> <p>Values: 'ABORIGINAL' 'ALL STUDENTS' 'ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS' 'FRENCH IMMERSION' 'SPECIAL NEEDS NO GIFTED' 'FEMALE' 'MALE' 'NON ABORIGINAL' 'NON ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER' 'RESIDENTS' 'NON RESIDENTS'</p> <p>Many of these values are binary; in other words, they are mutually exclusive. The binary pairs are 'ABORIGINAL' and 'NON ABORIGINAL'; 'ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER' and 'NON ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER'; 'FEMALE' and 'MALE'.</p> <p>'SPECIAL NEEDS NO GIFTED' includes the following Special Need categories: Category E – Visual Impairment Category F – Deaf or Hard of Hearing Category Q – Learning Disability Category H – Intensive Behaviour Intervention/Serious Mental Illness Category R – Moderate Behaviour Support/Mental Illness</p>
FSA_SKILL_CODE	<p>The short-form code for the subject of the FSA test.</p> <p>Values: 'RE' (for Reading Comprehension) 'WR' (for Writing) 'NU' (for Numeracy)</p>

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GRADE	The grade level of the FSA test. Values: '04' and '07'.
NUMBER_EXPECTED_WRITERS	The number of students expected to participate in the FSA. As of school year 2007/2008, the Ministry of Education expects an FSA participation rate of 100%. A Student Expected to Participate is defined as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 who wrote the FSA. A Student Who Wrote is defined as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student who has logged into the source system and attempted the multiple-choice component (even just one question) of the exam. AND/OR • A student who has a mark entered for the open-ended component of the exam.
NUMBER_UNKNOWN	The number of students whose 3-point scores in the FSA are "FSA PERFORMANCE LEVEL UNKNOWN". The value in this column indicates students that were expected to participate but made no attempt. In summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student who was expected to participate but did not answer any questions, AND • Has no mark entered for the open-ended component of the assessment, AND • Has no mark entered for the multiple-choice component of the assessment.
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).