

Working with the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) extract from Data BC

Understanding the FSA data extract	Read the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>FSA 2007/08-2016/17 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">• Importing text (.txt or .csv) files into Excel• 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 either 'DISTRICT LEVEL', 'PROVINCE LEVEL', or 'SCHOOL 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 have school districts.)
 - If you selected 'SCHOOL LEVEL', use either **SCHOOL_NUMBER** or **SCHOOL_NAME** to select the school whose FSA results you want to see.
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_BELOW**
- **NUMBER_MEETING**
- **NUMBER_EXCEEDING**
- **SCORE**

7. Use the auto-filter on **SCHOOL_YEAR** to select data from a specific school year (e.g., '2007/2008').
8. Use **FSA_SKILL_CODE** to select a subject of the FSA test ('Writing', 'Reading', 'Numeracy').

Sample Questions

Question:

How many Non Indigenous grade 4 students in school district 036 (Surrey) wrote the FSA for Numeracy in 2009/2010?

Path to answer:

1. Filter **DATA_LEVEL** to 'DISTRICT LEVEL'
2. Filter **DISTRICT_NUMBER** to '036'
3. Filter **SCHOOL_YEAR** to '2009/2010'
4. Filter **SUB_POPULATION** to 'NON INDIGENOUS'
5. Filter **FSA_SKILL_CODE** to 'Numeracy'
6. Filter **GRADE** to '04'
7. Column L (**NUMBER_WRITERS**) = 3,922

Question:

How many grade 7 students in BC (in both Public and Independent schools) exceeded expectations on the FSA for Reading in 2015/2016?

Path to answer:

1. Filter **DATA_LEVEL** to 'PROVINCE LEVEL'
2. Filter **PUBLIC_OR_INDEPENDENT** to 'PROVINCE-TOTAL'
3. Filter **SCHOOL_YEAR** to '2015/2016'
4. Filter **SUB_POPULATION** to 'ALL STUDENTS'
5. Filter **FSA_SKILL_CODE** to 'Reading'
6. Filter **GRADE** to '07'
7. Column P (**NUMBER_EXCEEDING**) = 4,605