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

Understanding the FSA data extract	Read the following documents: • *FSA 2021/22 onward field definitions* • Ministry of Education data masking policy
How can I work with this data set in Microsoft Excel?	The following tutorials may be helpful: • 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, 'Literacy')

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_EXTENDING
NUMBER_WRITERS	AVG_SCORE
NUMBER_UNKNOWN	MEDIAN_SCORE
NUMBER_EMERGING	STDEV_SCORE
NUMBER_ONTRACK	

7. Use the auto-filter on **SCHOOL_YEAR** to select data from a specific school year (e.g., '2021/2022').

8. Use **FSA_SKILL_CODE** to select a subject of the FSA test ('Numeracy', 'Literacy').

Sample Questions

Question:
How many Grade 7 students in independent schools province-wide were expected to write the FSA for Numeracy in 2023/2024?

Path to answer:
1. Filter **DATA_LEVEL** to 'Province Level'
2. Filter **PUBLIC_OR_INDEPENDENT** to 'BC Independent School'
3. Filter **SCHOOL_YEAR** to '2023/2024'
4. Filter **FSA_SKILL_CODE** to 'Numeracy'
5. Filter **GRADE** to '7'
6. Filter **SUB_POPULATION** to 'All Students'
7. Column I (**NUMBER_EXPECTED_WRITERS**) = 7,378

Question:
How many Grade 4 non disabilities or diverse abilities students in Prince George school district were on track on the FSA for Literacy in 2024/2025?

Path to answer:
1. Filter **DATA_LEVEL** to 'District Level'
2. Filter **DISTRICT_NAME** to 'Prince George'
3. Filter **SCHOOL_YEAR** to '2024/2025'
4. Filter **SUB_POPULATION** to 'Non Diverse Abilities'
5. Filter **FSA_SKILL_CODE** to 'Literacy'
6. Filter **GRADE** to '4'
7. Column M (**NUMBER_ONTRACK**) = 417