



The Best Place on Earth

Ref: 142121

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Ann Whiteaker, President
BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils
350 - 5172 Kingsway
Burnaby BC V3H 2E8

Dear *Ann* Ms. Whiteaker:

Thank you for your letter of October 3, 2010, regarding the BCCPAC Foundations Skills Assessment (FSA) Brief.

The primary users of FSA data are BC parents, students, teachers, schools, school planning councils, school districts and the province. Other users include educational researchers, scholars, and independent organizations.

Primary users:

- Most of the 60 school districts use FSA results to monitor trends in student achievement and plan for improvement.
- Close to 1500 schools and school planning councils receive school-level summary reports and school-level item analysis reports.
- Student Results Reports, along with the Student Response Booklets, are sent home by the end of March each year. Each year, approximately 90 000 Grades 4 and 7 students together with their parents and teachers may discuss the FSA results in the context of their learning and achievement.
- The Ministry uses FSA data as one piece of information to review curriculum and the elementary program, and to set goals and targets.

Research users:

- Educational researchers and scholars from Canadian universities use FSA data in their research and studies. In the last two years, there have been approximately 30 projects using FSA data. These studies cover a variety of topics such as First Nation student achievements, ethnic student achievements, special needs, child development and learning, school choice, principal and school effectiveness, and comparisons to other jurisdictions. Some of these researchers include Clyde Hertzman, Jennifer Lloyd, Mary McBride, and Jane Friesen.
- The Office of BC's Representative for Children and Youth uses FSA data to report on student learning in the province.

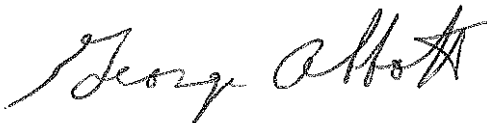
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Other users:

Some independent organizations use FSA data in their work. For example, the CD Howe Institute uses the data to publish a report on school performance. The Fraser Institute uses the data to publish school rating reports.

I hope this information is useful. Should you have further questions, staff at the Ministry of Education would be pleased to discuss these further with you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Abbott". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

George Abbott
Minister