



**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 64 (GULF ISLANDS)**

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September 27, 2019

Dear Parents and Caregivers of students in grades 4 and 7:

In accordance with the School Act of British Columbia, School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands) will be conducting the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) in October 2019. The FSA measures literacy and numeracy skills set out in the provincial curricula and is part of the overall assessment of learning program in the district and province.

The FSA assessments have been designed to reflect the new curriculum in British Columbia and have been moved to the fall timeframe in order to better inform parents and schools about the progress of learning.

Participation in the FSA is expected for all students in grades 4 and 7 across the province. The British Columbia School Act is clear that school principals have the authority to exempt students from writing the FSA only in the event of a family emergency, a lengthy illness, or other extenuating circumstances.

Parents wishing to have the school principal exempt their child from writing the FSA are asked to contact the school principal directly to have a conversation about the reasons for requesting the exemption. Parents that have only submitted a form letter request for exemption to the school principal can expect additional communication designed to clarify the request.

Parents can find additional information about the FSA at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/assessment/fsa-parent-brochure.pdf> and <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/assessment/foundation-skills-assessment>, and should feel free to contact me at the District Office at their convenience.

Respectfully,

Scott Benwell, PhD  
Superintendent of Schools