



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 64 (GULF ISLANDS)

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January 5, 2021

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 January and February 2021. 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. Due to the disruptions associated with COVID-19, now as much as ever, these assessments are important to inform instruction and help schools know where to provide key supports for learning.

The FSA assessments have been designed to reflect the curriculum in British Columbia and have been moved to January and February 2021 to accommodate the disruptions to the school year associated with COVID-19. School processes for delivering the assessments to students remain the same as previous years.

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 only school principals have the authority to exempt students from writing the FSA. Parents of students with Individualized Education Plans, identified as ELL, or experiencing extenuating circumstances (e.g. family emergency or lengthy illness) wishing to discuss an exemption for their child from writing the FSA are asked to contact the school principal directly. Submitting to the principal a form letter request for exemption is not a recognized process through provincial guidelines.

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 staff at the District Office at their convenience.

Respectfully,

Scott Benwell, PhD
Superintendent of Schools