

Media Release



BCSTA

British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

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Fraser Institute's ranking of schools fails to recognize accomplishments

Vancouver, BC – BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) recognizes the importance of accountability and appropriate uses of assessment data in planning for improvements to student achievement. However, BCSTA strongly objects to Fraser Institute's ranking of schools based on a narrow snapshot of data.

BCSTA President Connie Denesiuk says, "The Fraser Institute's misuse of Foundational Skills Assessment data paints a misleading and inaccurate picture of schools."

Denesiuk points out that, "to get a true picture of how a school is performing, parents must have information about all grade levels in all subject areas including fine arts, science, social studies, sports, citizenship and the cultural factors that make each school unique."

Denesiuk maintains rankings are potentially harmful to the morale of those who work and learn in BC's public schools. "The limited snapshot of data used fails to recognize the significant accomplishments and progress taking place every day in our schools."

There is value in parents, teachers, and districts knowing how well students are doing, says Denesiuk. BCSTA supports the use of a wide variety of processes of gathering such information, including classroom-based, district-wide, and provincial assessments. Schools, boards and the province can use data from assessments to make plans for improvement.

- 30 -

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