

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

# ESTIMATES BINDER

March 2022



Ministry of  
Education



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# EDUCATION PROGRAMS DIVISION

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# Assessment

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## 2022/23 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

**Ministry:** Ministry of Education

**Program/Program Area Name:** Assessment Administration, Analysis and Reporting

**Title:** Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)

**Date Revised:** February 2, 2022

### **Key Messages:**

- The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) is an assessment of Grade 4 and 7 foundation skills in literacy and numeracy. All students, with limited exceptions, are required to participate.
- The purposes of the FSAs are to: provide system level information on student performance to inform ministry on how to improve education in B.C.; provide districts and schools with information on student performance; and support decision making (e.g., interventions).
- The First Nations Education Steering Committee uses FSA to understand First Nations (FN) student performance and equity gaps that exist between FN and non-FN student results.
- The Ministry does not support the use of assessment data to rank schools and maintains that any attempt to rank schools or districts based on FSA results invites misleading comparisons that ignore key factors including student and family demographics and school programming that affect student learning in each school.
- The British Columbia Teachers' Federation has actively campaigned for the removal of FSA from B.C.'s assessment program, encouraging parents and caregivers to withdraw their children from participating and discouraging teachers from administering.
- To address concerns around FSA and the misuse of data, the Advisory Group for Provincial Assessment (AGPA 3) will begin meeting in 2022 and across 2023 to provide recommendations for a comprehensive system-wide framework for provincial assessment.

### **Key Facts Regarding the Issue:**

- The FSA was redesigned in 2017 based on recommendations from the AGPA 1 and included moving the administration to earlier in the school year.
- FSA is administered electronically, with some paper-based components, and is developed and marked by B.C. and Yukon certified teachers.
- Ministry research indicates:
  - Students that wrote at least one FSA test were up to 4% more likely to complete high school on time when compared to their peers who do not write the FSA.
  - Students that wrote the Grade 7 FSA were at least 5% more likely to attend university relative to their non-writing peers.
  - This likelihood increased to 17% if the student achieved 90% or higher on the FSA.
- As required under FOIPPA, the Ministry provides several data files to the Fraser Institute in response to an annual data request, which in turn they use to produce a public report card that presents a ranking of schools and which has caused misconceptions about the FSA and has led to a drop in participation rates.

# 2022/23 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

**Ministry:** Ministry of Education

**Program/Program Area Name:** Assessment Administration, Analysis and Reporting

**Key Outcomes:**

- Transition to a new e-Assessment service provider, Vretta, in the 2021/22 school year.

**Statistics:**

- Approximately 100,000 Grade 4 and 7 students are expected to write the FSA annually.
- Participation in the assessment has declined over time to 74% in 2019.
- Participation for the 2021 administration was 65%.

**Provincial Participation Rates:**

2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
84%	84%	81%	79%	76%	76%	74%	74%	65%

**Percentage of Students On Track and Extending:**

Grade	Component	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
4	Reading	79%	78%	77%	85%
	Writing	80%	91%	86%	85%
	Numeracy	69%	70%	72%	76%
7	Reading	81%	79%	79%	81%
	Writing	92%	91%	89%	87%
	Numeracy	69%	69%	68%	72%

**Funding:**

- Costs to develop and administer the FSA for FY 2021/22 was \$727K. Additional costs include \$3.01M for design and delivery of provincial assessments through a contracted support, Vretta, with costs shared across Education Programs and Services and Technologies Divisions.
- In addition to development and administration, \$775K is provided to school districts and the Federation of Independent School Associations (FISA) to mark the FSA locally.
- The ministry conducts an annual marking-monitoring session to ensure scoring alignment between the province and districts at a cost of \$100,000 per session.

## 2022/23 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

**Ministry:** Ministry of Education

**Program/Program Area Name:** Assessment Administration, Analysis and Reporting

### **Delivery Partners:**

1. Vretta
2. Teachers
3. School administrators
4. School district staff
5. Independent Schools
6. Yukon Territory

**Contact:** *Angie Calleberg, Executive Director, Curriculum and Assessment,  
(250) 886-2892*

## 2022/23 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

**Ministry:** Ministry of Education

**Program/Program Area Name:** Assessment Administration, Analysis and Reporting

Detailed Participation Rates 2020/21 (%)								Percentage of Students On Track or Extending 2020/21 (%)							
SD	School District	Grade 4			Grade 7			SD	School District	Grade 4			Grade 7		
		Read	Write	Num	Read	Write	Num			Read	Write	Num	Read	Write	Num
005	Southeast Kootenay	82%	81%	82%	78%	76%	77%	005	Southeast Kootenay	79%	47%	67%	70%	60%	56%
006	Rocky Mountain	96%	92%	96%	94%	92%	94%	006	Rocky Mountain	85%	81%	73%	84%	92%	75%
008	Kootenay Lake	69%	65%	68%	75%	71%	76%	008	Kootenay Lake	81%	79%	72%	76%	82%	60%
010	Arrow Lakes	69%	66%	69%	69%	67%	69%	010	Arrow Lakes	67%	96%	79%	92%	100%	80%
019	Revelstoke	92%	88%	91%	90%	87%	90%	019	Revelstoke	90%	91%	79%	89%	100%	75%
020	Kootenay-Columbia	93%	91%	93%	88%	83%	90%	020	Kootenay-Columbia	75%	84%	62%	75%	86%	60%
022	Vernon	86%	85%	86%	87%	85%	86%	022	Vernon	83%	75%	72%	83%	81%	74%
023	Central Okanagan	77%	74%	77%	69%	64%	68%	023	Central Okanagan	84%	83%	75%	73%	84%	57%
027	Cariboo-Chilcotin	88%	86%	88%	81%	72%	80%	027	Cariboo-Chilcotin	75%	78%	61%	70%	79%	59%
028	Quesnel	77%	59%	75%	46%	32%	41%	028	Quesnel	66%	58%	34%	53%	65%	37%
033	Chilliwack	87%	84%	86%	76%	71%	76%	033	Chilliwack	80%	84%	72%	73%	81%	57%
034	Abbotsford	86%	84%	86%	84%	82%	84%	034	Abbotsford	80%	83%	66%	82%	90%	69%
035	Langley	80%	75%	80%	79%	73%	79%	035	Langley	84%	81%	75%	76%	84%	68%
036	Surrey	41%	38%	41%	40%	38%	40%	036	Surrey	77%	84%	65%	77%	89%	70%
037	Delta	51%	45%	51%	43%	39%	42%	037	Delta	80%	83%	74%	82%	91%	74%
038	Richmond	60%	58%	60%	67%	66%	67%	038	Richmond	88%	93%	84%	88%	95%	85%
039	Vancouver	44%	43%	44%	39%	37%	38%	039	Vancouver	89%	89%	82%	89%	94%	83%
040	New Westminster	71%	69%	71%	62%	59%	61%	040	New Westminster	86%	97%	78%	81%	93%	64%
041	Burnaby	51%	49%	52%	54%	53%	54%	041	Burnaby	88%	93%	83%	86%	90%	85%
042	Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	32%	31%	32%	27%	25%	26%	042	Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	78%	79%	66%	68%	78%	56%
043	Coquitlam	69%	65%	69%	65%	59%	65%	043	Coquitlam	83%	91%	76%	78%	86%	71%
044	North Vancouver	82%	76%	81%	83%	73%	83%	044	North Vancouver	87%	87%	81%	84%	91%	80%
045	West Vancouver	85%	85%	86%	90%	90%	91%	045	West Vancouver	99%	100%	97%	97%	99%	95%
046	Sunshine Coast	82%	79%	79%	78%	76%	78%	046	Sunshine Coast	83%	83%	82%	83%	93%	76%
047	Powell River	52%	45%	51%	48%	43%	47%	047	Powell River	69%	75%	54%	73%	86%	60%
048	Sea to Sky	85%	81%	84%	87%	81%	87%	048	Sea to Sky	83%	70%	71%	73%	75%	57%
049	Central Coast	67%	53%	73%	57%	50%	57%	049	Central Coast	90%	63%	27%	75%	86%	38%
050	Haida Gwaii	74%	76%	79%	66%	50%	58%	050	Haida Gwaii	72%	81%	52%	56%	89%	45%
051	Boundary	62%	53%	58%	69%	65%	70%	051	Boundary	59%	69%	62%	82%	63%	60%
052	Prince Rupert	64%	59%	62%	63%	53%	64%	052	Prince Rupert	68%	71%	59%	64%	64%	57%
053	Okanagan Similkameen	91%	90%	91%	91%	89%	91%	053	Okanagan Similkameen	75%	79%	62%	72%	88%	64%
054	Bulkley Valley	86%	80%	85%	86%	81%	86%	054	Bulkley Valley	83%	79%	61%	80%	96%	78%
057	Prince George	85%	80%	84%	87%	82%	86%	057	Prince George	79%	83%	60%	70%	72%	52%

## 2022/23 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

**Ministry:** Ministry of Education

**Program/Program Area Name:** Assessment Administration, Analysis and Reporting

### FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENT (FSA)

updated January 4, 2022

058	Nicola-Similkameen	90%	86%	86%	89%	85%	88%	058	Nicola-Similkameen	78%	71%	62%	75%	82%	58%
059	Peace River South	92%	84%	91%	87%	85%	87%	059	Peace River South	77%	76%	63%	77%	85%	61%
060	Peace River North	89%	89%	90%	86%	83%	85%	060	Peace River North	86%	90%	69%	76%	89%	61%
061	Greater Victoria	56%	53%	55%	59%	53%	58%	061	Greater Victoria	88%	76%	79%	80%	80%	64%
062	Sooke	31%	29%	30%	25%	22%	24%	062	Sooke	80%	81%	80%	64%	79%	64%
063	Saanich	67%	61%	67%	43%	40%	42%	063	Saanich	88%	88%	82%	83%	91%	79%
064	Gulf Islands	94%	93%	94%	95%	94%	95%	064	Gulf Islands	96%	90%	82%	87%	88%	75%
067	Okanagan Skaha	91%	87%	90%	90%	86%	89%	067	Okanagan Skaha	91%	83%	80%	82%	90%	66%
068	Nanaimo-Ladysmith	55%	52%	55%	47%	45%	48%	068	Nanaimo-Ladysmith	74%	70%	66%	75%	76%	62%
069	Qualicum	52%	48%	51%	53%	48%	53%	069	Qualicum	81%	82%	67%	80%	88%	76%
070	Pacific Rim	82%	76%	80%	81%	71%	81%	070	Pacific Rim	76%	60%	55%	70%	81%	54%
071	Comox Valley	73%	68%	73%	70%	67%	72%	071	Comox Valley	80%	66%	70%	79%	80%	71%
072	Campbell River	87%	81%	85%	78%	65%	78%	072	Campbell River	77%	93%	63%	68%	88%	52%
073	Kamloops-Thompson	88%	87%	88%	77%	73%	77%	073	Kamloops-Thompson	83%	82%	72%	79%	85%	72%
074	Gold Trail	94%	90%	96%	90%	91%	93%	074	Gold Trail	69%	77%	62%	65%	83%	55%
075	Mission	50%	43%	49%	42%	39%	41%	075	Mission	82%	83%	65%	58%	75%	49%
078	Fraser-Cascade	42%	37%	38%	43%	40%	45%	078	Fraser-Cascade	75%	76%	68%	67%	90%	45%
079	Cowichan Valley	77%	73%	76%	74%	66%	74%	079	Cowichan Valley	78%	78%	64%	71%	78%	48%
081	Fort Nelson	90%	90%	90%	93%	95%	93%	081	Fort Nelson	100%	89%	100%	91%	98%	96%
082	Coast Mountains	64%	60%	63%	50%	46%	51%	082	Coast Mountains	76%	61%	59%	55%	64%	35%
083	North Okanagan-Shuswap	91%	89%	90%	89%	86%	87%	083	North Okanagan-Shuswap	84%	60%	68%	78%	71%	64%
084	Vancouver Island West	80%	67%	80%	75%	58%	79%	084	Vancouver Island West	54%	50%	25%	39%	43%	21%
085	Vancouver Island North	97%	96%	97%	90%	88%	89%	085	Vancouver Island North	91%	74%	67%	72%	76%	60%
087	Stikine	29%	29%	29%	50%	17%	50%	087	Stikine	50%	50%	50%	17%	50%	17%
091	Nechako Lakes	68%	63%	68%	61%	56%	61%	091	Nechako Lakes	75%	72%	53%	79%	80%	58%
092	Nisga'a	48%	43%	38%	54%	20%	63%	092	Nisga'a	40%	44%	25%	32%	71%	9%
093	Conseil scolaire francophone	52%	49%	52%	46%	43%	46%	093	Conseil scolaire francophone	93%	91%	80%	85%	98%	79%
097	BC PUBLIC SCHOOL	64%	61%	64%	61%	57%	61%	097	BC PUBLIC SCHOOL	82%	82%	72%	78%	85%	68%
098	BC INDEPENDENT SCHOOL	88%	86%	88%	89%	86%	89%	098	BC INDEPENDENT SCHOOL	94%	94%	90%	93%	96%	89%
099	Province (Pub and Independent)	68%	65%	68%	65%	61%	65%	099	Province (Pub and Independent)	85%	85%	76%	81%	87%	72%

# 2022/23 Estimates Note

## Advice to the Minister

**Ministry:** Ministry of Education

**Program/Program Area Name:** National/International Assessments/Curriculum and Assessment

**Title:** National/ International Assessments

**Date Revised:** February 2, 2022

### **Key Messages:**

- B.C. students participate in one national (the Pan-Canadian Assessment Program) and two international assessments (the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study and the Programme for International Student Assessment) to help compare how B.C.'s education system performs with other education systems.
- The results from these assessments along with the contextual questionnaires for students, teachers, and school administrators provide insight into the various factors that contribute to the success of students, schools, and education systems.
- Schools/Districts in B.C. are required to administer national and international assessments according to the *Student Learning Assessment Ministerial Order*.
- While B.C. has shown a strong performance in national and international assessments, especially in reading, there has been a downward trend in student mathematics results. For example:
  - In the national PCAP assessment (2019), B.C. students were at the Canadian average in reading and below the Canadian average in math.
  - In the latest PISA results (2018), only two jurisdictions performed above B.C.'s range in reading while 9 jurisdictions performed above B.C.'s range in math out of a total of 88 jurisdictions.

### **Key Facts Regarding the Issue:**

- B.C. participates in one national assessment:
  - Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP): Grade 8 assessment of Reading, Mathematics, and Science administered every 3 years. The administration of the field test will be in the Spring of 2022 with the main administration in 2023.
- B.C. participates in two international assessments:
  - Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS): Grade 4 Reading assessment administered every 5 years. The next administration is scheduled for 2026.
  - Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA): Reading, Mathematics, and Science assessment of 15-year old students administered every 3 years. The next administration is scheduled for Spring of 2022.

## 2022/23 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

**Ministry:** Ministry of Education

**Program/Program Area Name:** National/International Assessments/Curriculum and Assessment

### **Key Outcomes:**

- PISA 2018: out of 88 jurisdictions, 15-year old B.C. students performed above the international average in reading, science, and math. Specifically:
  - Two jurisdictions performed above B.C.'s range in reading, 3 jurisdictions performed above B.C.'s range in science and 9 jurisdictions performed above B.C.'s range in math.
- PISA 2018 Financial Literacy: B.C. was outperformed by only one jurisdiction (Estonia). Nationally, BC students performed at the Canadian average.
- PISA 2018 Global Competence: B.C. was outperformed by only one jurisdiction (Singapore). Nationally, B.C. students performed at the Canadian average.
- PIRLS and ePIRLS 2016 assessments: In B.C., approximately 3,000 grade 4 students in 146 schools were randomly selected to participate.
  - B.C. students performed above the Canadian and international average.
  - Of 57 jurisdictions, five performed statistically above B.C., 19 performed within B.C.'s range and 29 were statistically below B.C.'s range.
  - Out of 16 jurisdictions, B.C.'s performance on ePIRLS was on par with six other jurisdictions, with only two jurisdictions performing above B.C.
- PCAP 2019: out of 10 provinces, B.C. students performed:
  - at the Canadian average in reading and science and below the Canadian average in mathematics

### **Funding:**

- PISA – Federally funded with Provincial in-kind contributions
- PIRLS – via Participating Provinces (\$500,000 over 5 fiscal years, \$71,267 budget 22/23)
- PCAP –\$122,501 PCAP funding is a part of a total Ministry contribution to CMEC for \$384,165.

### **Services to Ministry:**

- CMEC provides materials and administration specifications to the Ministry.

## 2022/23 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

**Ministry:** Ministry of Education

**Program/Program Area Name:** National/International Assessments/Curriculum and Assessment

**Delivery Partners:**

1. CMEC; Federal government (ESDC) for PISA
2. CMEC-hired test administrators (for PISA)
3. Teachers and school administrators
4. School district staff
5. Independent Schools

**Contact:** *Angie Calleberg, Executive Director, Curriculum and Assessment,  
(250) 886-2892*



## 2022/23 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

**Ministry:** Ministry of Education

**Program/Program Area Name:** Assessment Administration, Analysis and Reporting

**Title:** Provincial Grade 10 and 12 Provincial Literacy Assessments

**Date Revised:** February 3, 2022

### **Key Messages:**

#### **General:**

- The Grade 10 and 12 Literacy Assessments are cross-curricular standardized assessments of student ability in literacy for French Immersion, Francophone, and English programs.
- The Grade 10 and 12 Literacy Assessments are a graduation requirement for all students and can be used as evidence of achievement after graduation. Each year, the English assessments are written by approximately 50,000 students, 3,000 students writing French Immersion Literacy 12, and 250 students writing the Francophone Literacy 10 and 12 assessments.
- The assessments provide both student-level information and system-level information on performance in literacy and inform decision-making at all levels of the system.
- Assessments are administered electronically and are developed and marked by B.C. and Yukon certified teachers.
- Students began writing the Grade 10 Literacy Assessments in the 2019/20 school year, with the Grade 12 Literacy Assessment first administered in November 2021.

#### **Cancellation of the January Administration Session:**

- Over the past few months, Grade 10 and 12 provincial assessments have been impacted significantly by the COVID-19 Omicron variant, Ministry and service provider work force capacity issues, and the ability to address technical issues within the electronic assessment system.
- The Ministry of Education made the difficult decision to cancel the January administration of all Grade 10 and 12 provincial graduation assessments for both English and French speaking students this school year.
- No Grade 12 student on track to graduate in the 2021/22 school year will be impacted by the January cancellation.
- The April and June 2022 graduation assessment administration will go ahead as planned with the exception of the French Immersion Literacy 12 assessment which was cancelled for the 2021/22 school year.

### **Key Facts Regarding the Issue:**

- In the 2021/22 school year, there were four planned administration sessions for Literacy 10 and 12: November 1-5, January 24-February 3, April 25-29, and June 13-17.

## 2022/23 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

**Ministry:** Ministry of Education

**Program/Program Area Name:** Assessment Administration, Analysis and Reporting

- The Ministry is committed to consulting with the field on changes that impact students, teachers, and schools. The Ministry consulted with school superintendents representing the regional chapters in the province and an independent school representative regarding this decision.
- The Ministry will be working with our e-assessment provider and consulting with the sector to determine upcoming sessions.

### **Key Outcomes:**

- Transition to a new e-Assessment service provider, Vretta, in the 2021/22 school year.
- No Grade 12 student on track to graduate in the 2021/22 school year will be impacted by the January cancellation.

### **Statistics:**

- 104,108 students have written the Grade 10 Literacy Assessment since November 2019.
- 15,277 students wrote the Grade 12 Literacy Assessment in the first administration (November 2021).

### **Funding:**

- Development costs for Grade 10 and 12 Literacy: FY 2021/22 \$800K
- Administration and marking costs for Grade 10 and 12 Literacy: FY 2021/22 \$775K
- Additional costs include \$3.01M for design and delivery of provincial assessments through a contracted support, Vretta, with costs shared across Education Programs and Services and Technologies Divisions.

### **Delivery Partners:**

1. Vretta
2. Provincial Resource Centre for the Visually Impaired (PRCVI) for adaptations
3. Teachers/school administrators/school district staff
4. Independent schools
5. Offshore schools
6. First Nations schools
7. Yukon Territory
8. Post-secondary Institutions

**Contact:** *Angie Calleberg, Executive Director, Curriculum and Assessment,*  
(250) 886-2892

# 2022/23 Estimates Note

## Advice to the Minister

**Ministry:** Ministry of Education

**Program/Program Area Name:** Provincial Assessment/Curriculum and Assessment

**Title:** Provincial Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment

**Date Revised:** February 3, 2022

### **Key Messages:**

#### **General:**

- The Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment is a cross-curricular standardized assessment of student ability in numeracy. Assessments measure numeracy across multiple areas of learning and student performance on the assessment is independent of course marks.
- Assessments are administered electronically, with the addition of two paper-based problem solving components, and are developed and marked by B.C. and Yukon certified teachers.
- While the assessment is no longer tied to a course, the Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment is a graduation requirement for all students and can be used as evidence of achievement after graduation.
- Approximately 50,000 students write the Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment annually.
- The assessment provides both student-level and system-level information on performance in numeracy and informs decision-making at all levels of the system.
- Students began writing the Numeracy 10 in January 2018.

#### **Cancellation of the January Administration Session:**

- Over the past few months, Grade 10 and 12 provincial assessments have been impacted significantly by the COVID-19 Omicron variant, Ministry and service provider work force capacity issues, and the ability to address technical issues within the electronic assessment system.
- The Ministry of Education made the difficult decision to cancel the January administration of all Grade 10 and 12 provincial graduation assessments for both English and French speaking students this school year.
- 20,000 students were registered to write the Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment in the cancelled January 2022 session.
- No Grade 12 student on track to graduate in the 2021/22 school year will be impacted by the January cancellation.
- The April and June 2022 graduation assessment administration will go ahead as planned with the exception of the French Immersion Literacy 12 assessment which was cancelled for the 2021/22 school year only.

#### **Key Facts Regarding the Issue:**

- In the 2021/22 school year, there were four planned administration sessions for Numeracy 10: November 1-5, January 24-February 3, April 25-29, and June 13-17.

## 2022/23 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

**Ministry:** Ministry of Education

**Program/Program Area Name:** Provincial Assessment/Curriculum and Assessment

- The Ministry is committed to consulting with the field on changes that impact students, teachers, and schools. The Ministry consulted with school superintendents representing the regional chapters in the province and an independent school representative regarding this decision.
- The Ministry will be working with our e-assessment provider and consulting with the sector to determine upcoming sessions.

### **Key Outcomes:**

- Transition to a new e-Assessment service provider, Vretta, in the 2021/22 school year.
- No Grade 12 student on track to graduate in the 2021/22 school year will be impacted by the January cancellation.

### **Statistics:**

- 261,987 assessments have been written since January 2018.

### **Funding:**

- Development costs for Grade 10 Numeracy: \$119K: FY 2021/22
- Administration and Marking costs for Grade 10 Numeracy: FY 2021/22 \$425K
- Additional costs include \$3.01M for design and delivery of provincial assessments through a contracted support, Vretta, with costs shared across Education Programs and Services and Technologies Divisions.

### **Delivery Partners:**

1. Vretta
2. Provincial Resource Centre for the Visually Impaired (PRCVI) for adaptations
3. Teachers/school administrators/school district staff.
4. Independent schools
5. Offshore schools
6. First Nations schools
7. Yukon Territory
8. Post-secondary Institutions

**Contact:** *Angie Calleberg, Executive Director, Curriculum and Assessment,  
(250) 886-2892*

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# Curriculum and Classroom Assessment

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## 2022/23 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

**Ministry:** Ministry of Education

**Program/Program Area Name:** Anti-Racism/Curriculum and Assessment

### **Title: Anti-Racism and Diverse Cultural Histories in the Curriculum**

**Date Revised:** February 2, 2022

#### **Key Messages:**

- British Columbia's concept based and competency driven curriculum is flexible and designed to allow teachers across the province to integrate topics about local Indigenous history and diverse cultural history into their classrooms.
- There are opportunities in the curriculum for students to learn about different perspectives as well as the past and current treatment of minority groups, human rights, and responses to discrimination in Canadian society.
- While the curriculum provides many opportunities to learn about anti-racism and diverse cultural histories, we know there is more work to do to strengthen the teaching of these important topics.
- The Ministry of Education has provided \$375,00 to Focused Education Resources to strengthen learning resources in this area. Focused Education Resources is working with community partners to: identify gaps in currently-available resources; develop professional learning resources for teachers; and create curriculum-aligned classroom resources to help educators effectively teach about anti-racism, human rights, and diverse cultural histories in B.C., including Black History.
- In July 2020 and July 2021, the Ministry of Education hosted a Community Roundtable on Anti-Racism to support the development of a K-12 Anti-Racism Action Plan and to review how we can strengthen resources and support for our provincial curriculum.

#### **Key Facts Regarding the Issue:**

- British Columbia's redesigned curriculum was developed by teams of experienced teachers and academics from a variety of disciplines, including Indigenous educators. Indigenous worldviews and perspectives have been woven into all curricula from K-12.
- BC's curriculum includes several important topics such as race and diverse cultural histories. For example, from the early grades on, the curriculum includes topics such as human rights and responses to discrimination in Canadian society, immigration, the continuing effects of imperialism and colonialism, and changing Canadian identities.
- An inventory of existing and valid resources is being developed, which will serve as a repository for educators across the K-12 curriculum and the province.
- A range of K-12 curriculum-aligned resources related to anti-racism, human rights, and diverse cultural histories in B.C. will be developed to fill gaps in existing resources and ensure that the voices and perspectives of a wide range of community groups are heard.
- These resources will be developed with significant teacher input to ensure that these resources are helpful and useful for classroom teachers throughout the province.

## 2022/23 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

**Ministry:** Ministry of Education

**Program/Program Area Name:** Anti-Racism/Curriculum and Assessment

### **Key Outcomes:**

- Community Roundtables were held to support the development of a K-12 Anti-Racism Action Plan and to review how we can strengthen and diversify resources and support for provincial curriculum.
- The Ministry of Education has held ongoing discussions with an Anti-Racism Curriculum Advisory Group to identify needs and make connections with community groups with a variety of academic backgrounds and/or lived experiences.

### **Statistics:**

- More than 30 organizations were members of the Community Roundtables on Anti-Racism, including the BC Black History Awareness Society and the African Descent Society BC.

### **Funding:**

- FY 2020/21 \$375,000 in grant funding was provided to Focused Education Resources to support the development of lists of recommended resources, professional-development resources, and classroom resources for educators.
- This grant is one of two, one-time year-end grants for FY 2020/21 totalling \$550K (second grant for \$175K from Learning Division for BC Aboriginal Child Care Society) in support of the Ministry's K-12 Anti-Racism Action Plan.

### **Services to Ministry:**

- Focused Education Resources was given a grant to provide key facilitation support and expertise in reviewing and compiling educational resources.

### **Delivery Partners:**

1. Learning Division (Anti-Racism Action Plan)
2. Focused Education Resources
3. Community advocacy groups related to anti-racism and diverse perspectives.
4. FNSEC and FNSA
5. BCTF
6. Independent Schools

## 2022/23 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

**Ministry:** Ministry of Education

**Program/Program Area Name:** Anti-Racism/Curriculum and Assessment

### **Agreements:**

- A grant letter has been developed and signed by Focused Educational Resources covering their role in developing resources related to anti-racism and diverse cultural histories.

**Contact:** *Nick Poeschek, Director, Curriculum, Classroom Assessment, and Reporting,  
(250) 886-1718*



## 2022/23 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

**Ministry:** Ministry of Education

**Program/Program Area Name:** Curriuclum/Curriculum and Assessment

**Title:** B.C. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Northwest Territories

**Date Revised:** February 3, 2022

### **Key Messages:**

- The Ministry of Education is very proud of our curriculum and assessment program and the international attention they have garnered. It is not surprising, then, that other jurisdictions are seeking to adopt what we know to be so special and beneficial to students.
- On December 16, 2021, the Northwest Territories (N.W.T.) announced that they will partner with British Columbia for the renewal of their Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12 (JK-12) school curriculum and assessments.
- N.W.T. began research in 2019 to explore the curriculum of western Canadian provinces and determined that BC's curriculum was the most aligned to the N.W.T.'s priorities in education.
- In particular, N.W.T. valued how Indigenous worldviews, knowledge, and perspectives are integrated in all of BC's curriculum in a meaningful and intentional way.
- B.C. and N.W.T. will work to develop a MOU in 2022, similar to the agreement with the Yukon to promote cooperation in areas such as curriculum and large-scale assessment. The cost-neutral MOU is anticipated to be in place as early as the 2023/24 school year.

### **Key Facts Regarding the Issue:**

- B.C. and the Yukon have historically shared educational resources and services, dating back as far as the 1930s. Today, this ongoing relationship is supported by an MOU, which is updated every five years.
- Historically, the N.W.T. have partnered with the Alberta Government in the delivery of K-12 education and assessment.
- In the Fall of 2019, the N.W.T. Department of Education, Culture and Employment, initiated a study to explore other Canadian provincial curricula and assessments as potential alternatives to their ongoing partnership with Alberta.
- The following strengths of BC's curriculum strongly resonated with the N.W.T.: The inclusion of First Peoples Principles of Learning, flexibility for district and educator inclusion of local context, focus on inclusive learning, core competencies and big ideas in the curriculum, and the innovative design of BC's provincial assessments.

## 2022/23 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

**Ministry:** Ministry of Education

**Program/Program Area Name:** Curriuclum/Curriculum and Assessment

- On December 16, 2021, the N.W.T. announced that they will end their relationship with Alberta and partner with British Columbia for the renewal of their Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12 (JK-12) school curriculum and assessments.
- The Government of the N.W.T. has begun the process of establishing a formal MOU with the Government of BC, similar to the existing MOU with Yukon.
- The new curriculum will be implemented by NW.T. using a phased-in approach over several years.
- Intergovernmental Communications
- It is anticipated that B.C. will be compensated by N.W.T. for both the FSA and graduation assessments at a rate of \$50 per assessment.
- The agreement with N.W.T. is expected to be cost-neutral as any additional costs incurred will be offset by the assessment fees.

### **Key Outcomes:**

- After an extensive review by the N.W.T. Department of Education, Culture and Employment, British Columbia's curriculum was identified as being most aligned with the N.W.T.'s priorities in education.
- N.W.T. and B.C. are working to develop an MOU that will allow N.W.T. to begin using BC's curriculum and assessments in the upcoming years.

### **Statistics:**

- There are currently 49 schools in Northwest Territories, currently enrolling approximately 8,700 students from pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12.

### **Funding:**

- It is anticipated that B.C. will be compensated by N.W.T. for both FSA and graduation assessments at a rate of \$50 per assessment.
- The agreement with N.W.T. is expected to be cost-neutral as any additional costs incurred will be offset by the assessment fees.

### **Delivery Partners:**

1. B.C. Ministry of Education
2. N.W.T. Department of Education, Culture and Employment

**Contact:** *Angie Calleberg, Executive Director, Curriculum and Assessment,  
(250) 886-2892*

## 2022/23 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

**Ministry:** Ministry of Education

**Program/Program Area Name:** Curriuclum/ Curriculum and Assessment

**Title:** B.C. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Yukon

**Date Revised:** February 3, 2022

### **Key Messages:**

- B.C. and the Yukon have historically shared educational resources and services.
- The Ministry of Education is very proud of our education system – including the redesigned curriculum and assessments – and the fact that the Yukon has chosen to adopt B.C.’s core education components is testament to that quality.
- The B.C.–Yukon Education MOU permits the Yukon’s use of B.C.’s curriculum, assessments, and the graduation program.
- The MOU ensures the jurisdictions effectively cooperate and share information in areas such as: delivery of specialized education services; curriculum and learning resources; assessment tools and services; shared information technologies; and other opportunities.
- While the MOU has no specified duration and is effective until terminated or a new agreement signed, current practice between jurisdictions involves a review every five years.
- The last MOU was renewed and signed in 2017.

### **Key Facts Regarding the Issue:**

- The Yukon’s use of B.C.’s curriculum, provincial assessments, and systems provide significant savings to the Yukon and improve the quality and diversity of both systems.
- In 2009, B.C. and the Yukon agreed to continue its long-term relationship through the B.C.–Yukon Education MOU.
- In early 2016, staff from the Ministry of Education and the Yukon Department of Education created a working group to review and renew the 2009 MOU, and met six times between April 2016 and December 2016. B.C.’s Ministry of Attorney General reviewed the MOU.
- In January 2017 the Yukon officially announced its intention to use B.C.’s redesigned curriculum and in April of the same year, B.C. and the Yukon renewed the MOU, which was signed by Deputy Ministers of both jurisdictions.
- The 2017 MOU benefits both jurisdictions because it extends the formal relationship and greatly enhances operational efficiencies.
- The MOU is not legally-binding and does not create contractual or other legal obligation or any legal liability whatsoever for either British Columbia or the Yukon with respect to any of the provisions.
- With no specified length of time agreed upon, the MOU is considered effective until terminated or a new agreement is signed between the two jurisdictions. However, the MOU will be reviewed every five years from the date that it was last signed.

## 2022/23 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

**Ministry:** Ministry of Education

**Program/Program Area Name:** Curriuclum/ Curriculum and Assessment

- Yukon Government pays \$20 per student for access to MyEd BC.
- Through a letter of agreement (updated annually and subject to change), B.C. is compensated by Yukon for both FSA and graduation assessments at a rate of \$50 per assessment.
- The agreement with Yukon is cost-neutral as any additional costs incurred are offset by the assessment fees.

### **Key Outcomes:**

- The overarching goal for revision of the MOU and strengthen the shared commitment to protection of privacy and security of student information and access to resources.
- The MOU and appendices provide guidelines for the use of the MyEdBC service for Yukon students and enhance the potential for distance learning with B.C. school districts.
- The revisions to the MOU in 2017 aimed to address:
  - B.C.'s redesigned curriculum and the shift to personalized learning;
  - new approaches (in both jurisdictions) to Indigenous education and cultural knowledge;
  - new assessment systems and the advent of the new student information service - Aspen/MyEdBC; and
  - the increased focus on clear procedures for information security.

### **Statistics:**

- The Yukon Department of Education delivers Kindergarten through Grade 12 public education to more than 5,000 students across Yukon. This includes distance education, home education, and education for students who need flexible learning options.
- There are 28 schools across Yukon, with almost half based in small rural communities outside Whitehorse.
- According to the Department, more than half of rural students identify themselves as being from one of Yukon's 14 First Nations.

### **Funding:**

- Yukon Government pays \$20 per student for access to MyEd BC.
- Through a letter of agreement (updated annually and subject to change), B.C. is compensated by Yukon for both FSA and graduation assessments at a rate of \$50 per assessment.

## 2022/23 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

**Ministry:** Ministry of Education

**Program/Program Area Name:** Curriuclum/ Curriculum and Assessment

### **Delivery Partners:**

- B.C. Ministry of Education
- Yukon Department of Education

### **Agreements:**

- Signed MOU between B.C. and the Yukon for the use of BC's curriiculum, assessments, and graduation program in Yukon schools.

**Contact:** *Nick Poeschnek, Director, Curriculum and Assessment, (250) 886-1718*

## 2022/23 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

**Ministry:** Ministry of Education

**Program/Program Area Name:** Climate Change/Curriculum and Assessment

### **Title: Climate Change in the Curriculum**

**Date Revised:** February 2, 2022

### **Key Messages:**

- British Columbia’s curriculum is concept-based and competency-driven with significant flexibility for educators.
- The redesigned curriculum offers a strong foundation for climate change education and provides many opportunities for students and teachers to explore climate change in varying levels of detail, across learning areas and grades.
- We know that climate change is an important topic of interest to students, as it directly impacts their future.
- The Ministry has had initial discussions with teacher and student groups, including Climate Education Reform BC (CERBC), about how to enhance the teaching of climate change in B.C. schools. We expect ongoing discussions with these groups to support work on classroom resources.
- We are continuing to work with the Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) and our many education partners to ensure that B.C. teachers have effective teaching and learning resources to support climate education in B.C.

### **Key Facts Regarding the Issue:**

- Topics related to climate change and sustainability can be found throughout the learning standards of the provincial curriculum, particularly in Science and Social Studies.
- For example, specialized science courses such as Earth Sciences 11, Environmental Science 11, Science for Citizens 11, and Environmental Science 12 provide opportunities for students to study the environment and climate change in more detail. These courses were fully implemented and available in schools starting in the 2019/20 school year.
- The Ministry of Education has partnered with BC’s Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) to develop evidence-based learning resources aligned with overall government direction related to climate.
- In Spring 2021, the Ministry of Education and CAS held two initial consultation sessions with educators to identify challenges and opportunities related to climate learning—one session with elementary school teachers and one session with secondary school teachers.
- Ministry staff have met with CERBC, a student-led climate education organization on multiple occasions to discuss student perspectives on potential curriculum changes and resources needed by teachers.
- Follow-up activities and development will occur during the upcoming school year  
Advice/Recommendations

## 2022/23 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

**Ministry:** Ministry of Education

**Program/Program Area Name:** Climate Change/Curriculum and Assessment

### **Key Outcomes:**

- Initial discussions held with both educators and student groups like CERBC to better understand challenges and opportunities related to climate learning in B.C. schools.

### **Statistics:**

- Two new environmental education courses (Environmental Science 11 and 12) developed and implemented.
- 18 BCTF teachers (9 Elementary and 9 secondary) consulted as part of initial climate resource development.

### **Funding:**

- The Climate Action Secretariate provided \$3,000 in funding to the Ministry of Education during the 2020/21 FY <sup>Government Financial Information</sup> This funding is to support the development of new climate resources for teachers:

### **Delivery Partners:**

1. Climate Action Secretariat
2. BCTF
3. FNEC and FNSA
4. BCPVPA
5. FISA

### **Agreements:**

- In July, 2021, the Ministry of Education and CAS signed a Memorandum of Understanding to align individual and collective activities related to climate change, including climate mitigation and adaptation, and education in the B.C. K-12 education system.

**Contact:** Nick Poescheck, Director, Curriculum, Classroom Assessment, and Reporting  
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