

NOTEBOOK

Issue #2 September 19, 2019



FSA TEST ADMINISTRATION AND BACKGROUND: What you Need to Know

As most of you know, the Ministry of Education has given the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) tests to students in Grades 4 and 7 since 2000.

Teachers across the province have been concerned for many years regarding how the FSA tests impact student learning and the way in which the results have been used. Important class time is spent preparing for and writing the FSA tests, rather than focusing on more meaningful work that better supports student learning.

FSA tests have been used by the Fraser Institute to create misleading rankings on biased and self-serving criteria that do not reflect the learning that occurs in our schools each and every day. FSA tests are expensive and take funding from schools that could be used for classroom equipment and supplies, textbooks and learning resources, and additional supports for students.

FSA Administration

The administration dates are between September 30 and October 11, 2019 in our school district. If you are a Grade 4 or Grade 7 teacher, you may be asked to administer the FSA tests. **If asked to administer the tests, our advice is to do so.**

We ask that you please do not prepare your students for the FSA tests since the work you do every day in your classroom is far more rewarding and meaningful.

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT A.32 NVTA School Staff Committees Page 26

- 1. The Board and the Association recognize the right of a school staff to form an NVTA Staff Committee.*
- 2. The NVTA Staff Committee may study and make recommendations to the school administration on any matters of concern to the staff.*
- 3. The NVTA Staff Committee shall have access to the school block budget information and other school district policies and regulations.*
- 4. The school administration shall consider all recommendations made by the NVTA Staff Committee and will provide a response with reasons in an appropriate manner. Such responses shall be provided in a timely manner. Normally the school administration shall respond within seven (7) working days. In the case of a longer time frame being required, the administration shall provide the response no later than fifteen (15) working days after the recommendations are received.*

The NVTA Staff Committee at your school is a vital way to communicate, discuss, and debate issues with your colleagues. The NVTA Staff Committee meeting is only for teachers to attend and is a great way to develop recommendations to your school's administration.

In terms of school issues, your school's NVTA Staff Committee can address and make recommendations to the principal under Article A.32.2 on any matters of concern.

Article A.32.3. gives the Staff Committee the right to request your school's block budget information and other school district policies that may affect your school. Usually, such requests are made by the CSR and/or Staff Committee Chair, and the information is given to staff for study and later discussions. Occasionally, there can be a timely or contentious issue that you may have but don't feel comfortable raising on your own. Through the NVTA Staff Committee, staff can come together and make recommendations that the CSR and/or the Staff Committee Chair can take to your principal for discussion and response.

In terms of implementing the Collective Agreement, the NVTA Staff Committee is the best way to work collectively because your principal has to formally respond to recommendations made by Staff Committee under Article A.32.4. Your principal has seven (7) working days to respond outlining their reasons. If the issue is more complex, and more time is needed, your principal can make their response within fifteen (15) working days.

North Vancouver Teachers' Association

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PART TIME WORK 2019-2020

For 2019-20 there are 188 days in session. However, there is an imbalance in the number of different weekdays since most holidays fall on a Monday or a Friday. Here is the break down for this school year: Mondays–33, Tuesdays–39, Wednesdays–39, Thursdays–39, Fridays–38.

For teachers who work part time on certain days of the week, this can affect the number of workdays in the year.

To determine how many days you should work this year multiply your FTE by 188 days. Then add up the number of days you will work based on the days of the week to find out if there is a discrepancy. For example, if a teacher works 0.4 FTE on Tuesdays and Wednesdays they will actually work 78 days (39 Tuesdays plus 39 Wednesdays) but they should work 75.2 days (0.4 times 188). They would be owed 2.8 days if they worked every Tuesday and Wednesday all year long.

Job Share–If you are in a job share, then you and your partner need to work out how to make the days equitable. For example, if your partner works on Mondays, they may need to cover another day of the week for you some time during the school year. Be sure to keep your principal informed about any scheduling changes you make.

Part Time–If you work part time, and are owed days, speak to your principal about how it will be addressed. You can either choose to take the extra days off or receive compensatory pay. It is at your discretion which option you choose. If you work too few days, you will need to work the additional days necessary.

If you have any questions or need help to verify calculations, please contact Robin Deleurme or Katrina Russell at the NVTa office or email katrina@nvta.ca.

NEW TEACHERS' CONFERENCES 2020 SUBMIT YOUR

WORKSHOP PROPOSALS NOW!

Members are encouraged to submit workshop proposals for both BCTF New Teachers' Conferences 2020 – Richmond, January 25, 2020 and Nelson, May 23, 2020. The deadline for submissions is Monday, October 7, 2019.

BCTF New Teachers' Conferences

New Teachers, New TTOCs, and Teacher Candidates



Wellness Safety Balance

In life and on the job

January 25
Richmond

SHERATON | Marriott.com/YVRVS
7551 Westminster Hwy,
Richmond, BC V6X 1A3
Richmond, British Columbia

January 24, 2020
Pre-conference Welcoming
Reception from 5pm to 7pm

May 23
Nelson

Prestige Lakeside Resort
and Convention Center
701 Lakeside Drive, Nelson BC V1L 6G3
Nelson, British Columbia

May 22, 2020
Pre-conference Welcoming
Reception from 5pm to 7pm



All NVTa members are encouraged to attend the **NVTa GENERAL MEETING** on Wednesday, **September 25, 2019**, at St. Martin's Anglican Church, 4:00 pm, where the NVTa's goals, the local fee, and the budget for 2019-2020 will be set.

We are also very pleased to welcome BCTF Executive Guest Speaker, Violette Baillargeon.
We look forward to seeing you there!