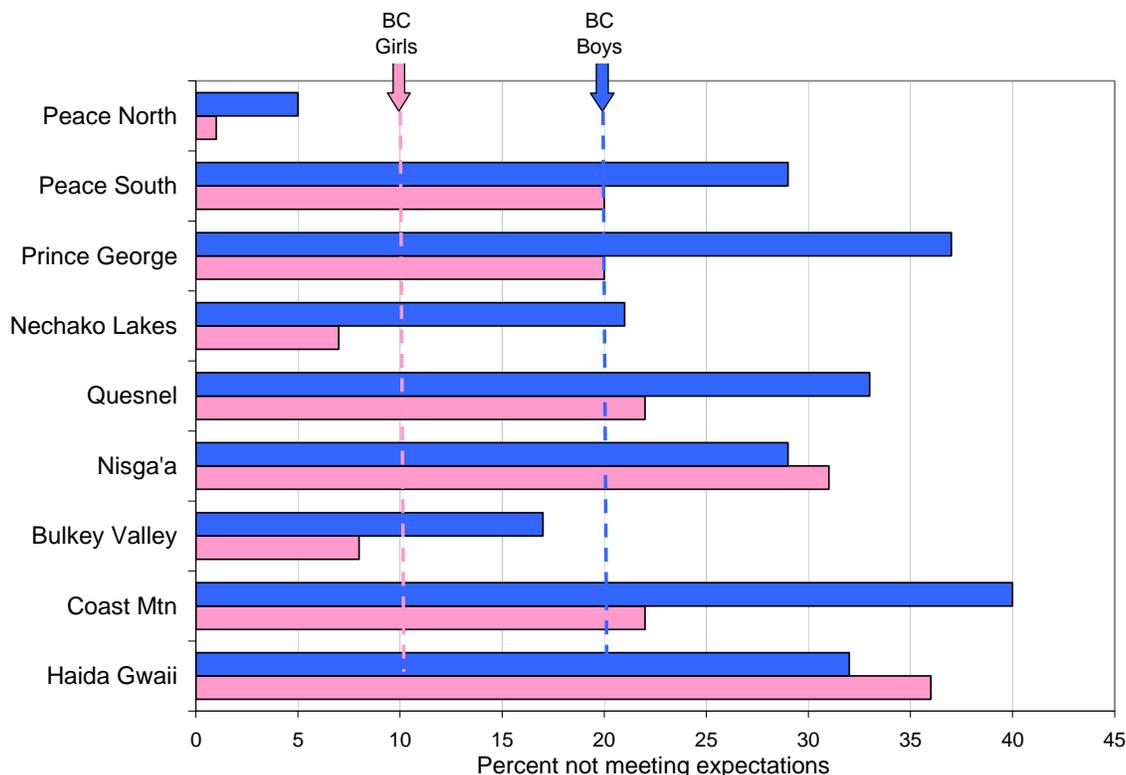


Foundation Skills Assessment – Grade 7 Students

The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) is a set of tests in reading, writing and numeracy. These are considered essential skills in the provincial curriculum. The FSA measures the core or foundational skills students have gained in several school years, not just in a single year.

FSA provides a “snapshot” of how well BC students are doing on core skills and it helps answer important questions such as “Are students learning vital skills they will need later?” “Is student achievement improving over time?” “Are there any trends in student performance at the school, district or provincial levels?” and “How are specific groups of students doing?”¹

Foundation Skills Assessment: Grade 7 Students not meeting standard: Writing skills.²



The graph above summarizes the percentage of Grade 7 students, by northern BC school district and gender, who were not meeting the standard for writing skills at the grade 7 level.

The FSA is conducted annually. The percentage of students engaged in the FSA varies across districts. Many factors can influence participation rates. During the 2010 FSA cycle, the percentage of students whose performance was unknown at the provincial level was 19%. Across the north, the percentage was between 5% and 17% except for two districts, Quesnel and Nechako Lakes, where the percentage was greater than 25%. In the above graph, the scores for Fort Nelson, Stikine and Nisga'a School Districts have not been shown due to the small numbers being considered and the variability. The figures shown above are as of February 2010.

¹ BC Ministry of Education. FSA FAQ. <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/>

² BC Ministry of Education: District Reports: Accessed October 7, 2010. http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/district_data_summary.php