

INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENT—NUMERACY

Grade 4 FSA Numeracy

B.C.'s Ministry of Education defines numeracy skills as “the ability to understand and apply mathematical concepts, processes, and skills to solve problems and make decisions in a variety of situations, including real-life scenarios.”

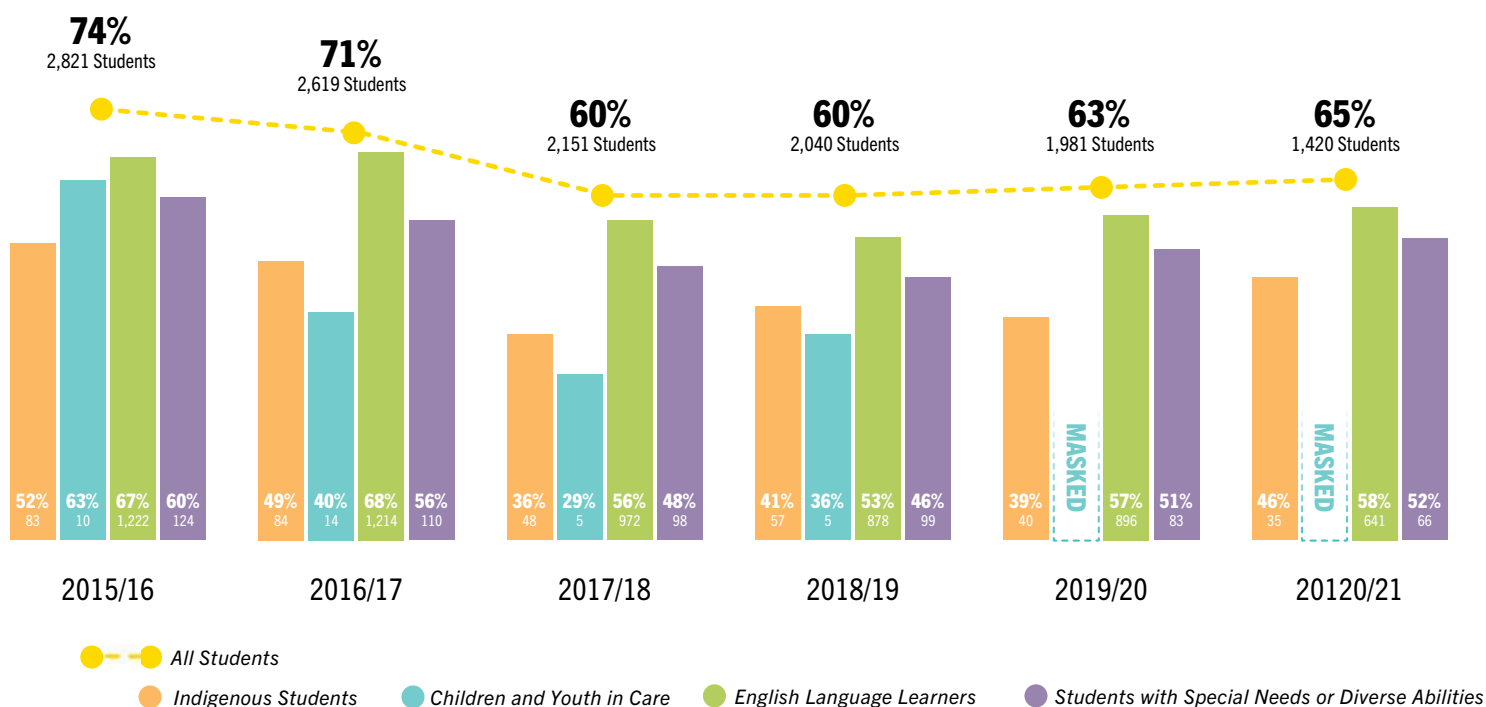
Grade 4 students in Surrey who participated in the FSA and are on-track or extending on the Numeracy portion of the provincial assessments dropped from 74% in the 2015/16 academic year to a low of 60% in 2017/18 and 2018/19. The percentage of students who are on-track or extending rose to 63% in the 2019/20 academic year and again increased to 65% in the 2020/21 academic year. What may account for the decline are the lower participation rates year-over-year. Since the high of 76% in 2015/16, participation rates have dropped by nearly half (47%) when the 2020/21 academic year resulted in a participation rate of 40%.

Similarly, each sub-group has had a decline in the percentage of students who are on-track or extending since the 2015/16 and 2016/17 academic years. **Indigenous students** have seen a decline in the percentage who are on-track or extending, with a high of 52% in the 2015/16 school year and dipping to 36% in 2017/18. It should be noted that FSA

participation rates among **Indigenous students** went from 59% in the 2015/16 and 2016/17 academic years, to 40% in both 2017/18 and 2019/20. **Indigenous students** have had an improvement in the last school year, when the percentage who are on-track or extending increased to 46%—representing an 18% improvement between 2019/20 and 2020/21.

For the 2016/17 school year, nearly half (49%) of **Indigenous students** with off-reserve status were on-track or extending while 40% of **Indigenous students** with on-reserve status were on-track or extending. **English Language Learners** and **Students with Special Needs or Diverse Abilities** saw an increase in the proportion of their population that were on-track or extending as well, with **English Language Learners** increasing from 56% and 53% in 2017/18 and 2018/19 respectively to 58% in 2020/21; FSA Numeracy results for **Students with Special Needs or Diverse Abilities** rose from 48% and 46% in 2017/18 and 2018/19 to 52% in 2020/21. See Figure 1 for a breakdown of the percentage and number of Surrey students who are on-track or extending in Grade 4 FSA Numeracy since the 2015/16 academic year.

Figure 1. Percentage and number of Surrey students who are on-track or extending in Grade 4 FSA Numeracy, 2015/16–2020/21



Grade 7 FSA Numeracy

Grade 7 Surrey students who participated in the FSA and are on-track or extending on FSA Numeracy dropped from 72% and 74% in the 2015/16 and 2016/17 academic years respectively. Results from the last school year has improved to 70%. FSA participation rates have been on a steady decline throughout the six-year span, dropping from a high of 81% in 2015/16 to 40% in 2020/21.

Students with Special Needs or Diverse Abilities who completed the assessment have had an upward trend in students who are on-track or extending from 51% in the 2015/16 academic year to 57% in 2017/18, and 2020/21. Likewise, **Indigenous students** improved to 53% in 2019/20, which is up from 37% in 2018/19.

Participation among **Students with Special Needs or Diverse Abilities** decreased from 54% in the 2015/16 academic year to 26% in 2020/21, while Indigenous students saw a decrease in participation from 70% in 2015/16 to 27% in 2020/21.

For the 2017/18 school year, nearly half (47%) of **Indigenous students** with off-reserve status were on-track or extending compared to 30% of students in the same sub-group with on-reserve status.

Children and Youth in Care saw more fluctuation in the proportion of students achieving on-track or extending in their Grade 7 FSA Numeracy scores than other student sub-groups, changing by at least 8% each year.

English Language Learners saw a drop from 68% and 72% in the 2015/16 and 2016/17 academic years to 60% in 2017/18, where it remained between 59% and 62% for the next four academic years. FSA participation rates among this group of students went from 74% in 2015/16 to 36% in 2020/21. See Figure 2 for a breakdown of the percentage and number of Surrey students who are on-track or extending in Grade 7 FSA Numeracy since the 2015/16 academic year.

Figure 2. Percentage and number of Surrey students who are on-track or extending in Grade 7 FSA Numeracy, 2015/16–2020/21

