

# ADMinsight

A fact sheet for principals & vice-principals that focuses on leadership in public education

## Question

**“There seems to be a great deal of conflicting news about BC’s student success rate. How do BC student’s achievement levels compare at home and internationally?”**

## Quick Facts

There are more than 530,000 students in BC’s public schools.

There are 1380 public schools in BC.

There are more than 81,000 students in BC’s independent school system.

Aboriginal learners account for 11.3% of the public school population with more than 67,000 students.

English Language learners account for 10.5% of the public school population with more than 66,000 students.

There are more than 52,000 French Immersion students in the public system which account for 9.5% of the students in public schools.

More than 3% of public school students have been designated to have a learning disability.



## BC Student Success Rate

Every school year, students in British Columbia take part in numerous provincial, national and international assessments to help better understand how our education system performs in comparison to education jurisdictions nationally and around the world. According to the Conference Board of Canada, BC has the top performing public education system in the country and is among the best in the world.

### The Conference Board of Canada

British Columbia, along with Alberta and Ontario has one of the top performing public education systems in the country. The Conference Board of Canada ranks Canada against 15 peer countries internationally. The comparisons between countries are based on K-12 performance on international standardized testing, the levels of post-secondary education and the competency rates of adults in the workforce. According to the Conference Board’s results only Japan and Finland outperform BC.

### OECD - PISA Results

Public school systems play a central role in creating the foundation upon which subsequent knowledge and skills can be developed. The Programme for International Student Results assesses 15-year-old students and provides information on those factors that contribute to successful students, schools, education systems, and learning environments amongst the 72 participating countries and ten participating provinces. Among the 72 participating countries, the 2015 reading results show that BC students outperformed all other participating countries and provinces in reading. In addition, BC students were ranked third in their understanding of science and eighth in their understanding of math. Canada also ranks very



## Quick Facts

Just over 1% of students in the public system have been designated as having a behaviour disability.

Approximately 1.0% of the student population in public school is considered gifted.

The top languages spoken at home by public school students are English, Cantonese and Mandarin, Punjabi, German, Tagalog, French, Korean, Spanish, and Farsi.

79% of students graduate on time while 84% of students graduate within six years of entering high school.

Aboriginal students have a 64% six year graduation rate.

There are more than 67,000 classes in BC's public schools.

Nearly 20,000 classes have an educational assistant.

In 2016, more than 1300 classes were reported to have 30 students or more.

highly in terms of equity and educational outcomes in comparison to the other participating countries.

## Foundation Skills Assessment

The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) is an annual assessment of student's reading, writing and numeracy skills at the Grade 4 & 7 levels. Approximately 80% of Grade 4 & 7 students participate in the FSA every year.

### Grade 4 - Reading (2016 Results)

Not Yet Meeting Expectations	<b>18%</b>
Meeting Expectations	<b>68%</b>
Exceeding	<b>14%</b>

### Grade 4 - Writing (2016 Results)

Not Yet Meeting Expectations	<b>16%</b>
Meeting Expectations	<b>76%</b>
Exceeding	<b>7%</b>

### Grade 4 - Numeracy (2016 Results)

Not Yet Meeting Expectations	<b>16%</b>
Meeting Expectations	<b>76%</b>
Exceeding	<b>7%</b>

### Grade 7 - Reading (2016 Results)

Not Yet Meeting Expectations	<b>22%</b>
Meeting Expectations	<b>65%</b>
Exceeding	<b>13%</b>

### Grade 7 - Writing (2016 Results)

Not Yet Meeting Expectations	<b>14%</b>	<b>6</b>
Meeting Expectations	<b>79%</b>	
Exceeding	<b>9%</b>	

### Grade 7 - Numeracy (2016 Results)

Not Yet Meeting Expectations	<b>27%</b>
Meeting Expectations	<b>61%</b>
Exceeding	<b>12%</b>

## REFERENCES

[https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reports/pdfs/fsa/fsa\\_writers\\_only/prov.pdf](https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reports/pdfs/fsa/fsa_writers_only/prov.pdf)

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<https://news.gov.bc.ca/stories/bc-students-among-best-international>