

One-Year Protocol Process and Procedures for Distribution of BC Teachers' Federation Material Regarding the Foundation Skills Assessment

Please find attached a one-year trial agreement reached today by BCPSEA and the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) regarding the distribution of three specific pamphlets in all school districts.

Recent court and arbitration decisions such as Munroe and Kinzie have resulted in many districts revisiting policies and practices with respect to the distribution of material by outside groups such as the BCTF. This year, BCPSEA and the BCTF also engaged in discussions regarding the distribution of information as it relates to information the BCTF and its locals wish to distribute, with a view to establishing a consistent approach across the sector.

Within this agreement, a number of union grievances have been withdrawn and the parties have agreed the employer will not oppose the distribution of three specific pamphlets (see attached). It is important to note that the distribution of the pamphlets is in no way an endorsement of the BCTF position on the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) by BCPSEA or school districts. Also, this protocol is limited to the three attached pamphlets only. For any other material, school districts should follow their usual policies and practices.

This agreement and the distribution of material as a result of this agreement should in no way affect the conduct of parent-teacher interviews. In addition, this agreement does not restrict school districts' rights in terms of follow up with parents regarding ministry guidelines when receiving a parent request to excuse a child from writing FSA.

School districts and locals should meet as soon as possible to discuss the implementation of the agreement at the local level and to name their respective representatives for the review process. School districts may wish to consider sending out counter-balancing information to parents regarding FSA.

BCPSEA will be providing a full update on all FSA issues prior to the re-opening of schools.

Questions

If you have any questions, please contact your Jacquie Griffiths at 604 505 8495 or jacquieg@bcpsea.bc.ca; or your BCPSEA district labour relations liaison.

Attachment

- One-year trial agreement
- BCTF pamphlets