



NEWS RELEASE

B.C. elementary schools can improve student performance despite challenges

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For Immediate Release

VANCOUVER—The Fraser Institute today published the annual rankings of B.C. elementary schools, the most easily accessible tool for parents to compare the academic performance of the province’s schools.

The *Report Card on British Columbia’s Elementary Schools 2021* ranks 927 public and independent elementary schools based on 10 academic indicators derived from the provincewide Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) results.

“The report card offers parents information they can’t easily get anywhere else, about how schools perform over time and how they compare to other schools in B.C.,” said Peter Cowley, report co-author and senior fellow at the Fraser Institute.

Contrary to common misconceptions, the data suggest every school is capable of improvement regardless of type, location and student characteristics.

For example, Westwood Elementary School in Prince George is the province’s fastest-improving school, climbing from a score of 2.3 (out of 10) in 2016 to 6.1 in 2020, the latest year of available comparable data. Westwood achieved these improvements despite 41.2 per cent of students being ELL (English Language Learning) where they require additional English-language development.

Over the same time period, Chilliwack Central Elementary improved from 2.5 to 3.3—despite having a 22.1 per cent special needs population.

“We often hear that schools can’t improve student performance because of the communities and students they serve, but the evidence suggests otherwise,” Cowley said.

For the complete results on all ranked schools and to compare the performance of different schools, visit www.compareschoolrankings.org.

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