



NEWS RELEASE

Fraser Institute’s BC elementary school rankings show which schools improving, falling behind in academics

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For Immediate Release

VANCOUVER—The Fraser Institute today published its annual British Columbia elementary school rankings, showing how schools have performed academically and which schools across the province have improved or fallen behind.

The *Report Card on British Columbia’s Elementary Schools 2016* ranks 944 public and independent elementary schools based on 10 academic indicators derived from the provincewide Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA) results.

“Our report card is the only objective, reliable tool that parents have to compare the academic performance of their child’s school over time and to that of other schools in their community,” said Peter Cowley, Fraser Institute director of school performance studies.

According to the rankings, 50 schools across the province showed significant improvement over the past five years: Devon Gardens, a public school in Delta, is the fastest improving school in B.C., followed by George Jay (Victoria), Alex Aitken (Duncan), St. Andrew’s (Vancouver), and Senator Reid (Surrey).

Of the 50 schools that showed significant improvement, 45 are public schools.

“When parents see the report card’s objective evidence that a school’s results are consistently low or declining, they often become very effective advocates for improvement,” Cowley said.

“Every year, every school in the province must find ways to improve student results—it’s as simple as that.”

Other findings from this year’s rankings include:

- 80 per cent of the top 100 ranked schools are independent schools
- On average, independent schools achieved a rating of 8.2 (out of 10) while public schools averaged just 5.6.
- West Vancouver and Richmond have the highest ranking public schools:

City	Average overall rating (2014/2015)
West Vancouver	9.2
Richmond	6.9
New Westminister	6.6
Fort St. John	6.6
Abbotsford	6.5
Burnaby	6.5

(Average ratings were only calculated for cities with at least five public schools in the report card.)

For detailed results of all 944 schools, go to www.compareschoolrankings.org where you can quickly see how a school performed over the past five years and how it compares to other schools.

Peter Cowley is available for media interviews, from Vancouver, on Sunday and Monday.

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