

Understanding the Fraser Institute's

elementary and secondary school rankings



What is the Fraser Institute Report Card?

The Fraser Institute Report Card provides an overall rating of a school's performance on mathematics and literacy standardized tests.

What information is used to calculate each school's score?

The Fraser Institute uses data from province-wide standardized tests to calculate an overall rating of out of 10 for each school.

The Report Card includes some other information about the school's effectiveness, but this information is not used in the rankings or to calculate schools' overall score out of 10.

Benefits of the Fraser Institute Ranking



The rankings are calculated from tests that are administered province-wide.



The tests used to rank schools are administered annually so they can be used to assess a school's improvement or lack of improvement over time.



The aggregate (or summary, out of 10) score helps to answer the question, "In general, how is the school doing academically compared to the other schools in the Report Card?"

Gaps in the Fraser Institute Ranking

- The rankings reflect performance on mathematics and English (or French) literacy only.
 - Other academics that are not measured include science, technology, social studies, history, languages and more.
 - The arts are not measured, including music, visual arts, drama and dance.
- Academic performance is measured by standardized tests only (not projects, reports or other student products that show what students have learned).
- Rankings do not account for between-school differences in the students attending each school (although readers can make comparisons on their own based on the proportion of students with English as a Second Language, special needs designations, and information on parental income data included in the report).
- Citizenship, safety, and other aspects of school climate and community are not considered.

The Fraser Institute produces a school rankings report each year. The report often receives media coverage and is sometimes referenced by parents when they are making choices about schools.

While the report provides some information, it does not present a complete picture of a school's performance and strengths. This tip sheet provides an overview of the school rankings report and some points to consider.

How parents can use the Fraser Institute Report Card rankings

We encourage families to prioritize school qualities according to what matters most to you and your family. If the school qualities that matter most to you are not reflected in the Fraser Institute rankings, consider contacting your local school board, trustee or school council to learn more about your local schools. Attending an open house and talking to other students and families can help to provide a more complete picture of the school.