



REPORT TO

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL
BEING, CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND
HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**EDUCATION QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
(EQAO) ASSESSMENTS - UPDATE**

"An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge." Proverbs 18:15

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
July 8, 2021	October 7, 2021	Click here to enter a date.

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INFORMATION REPORT

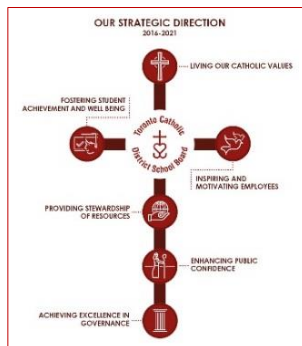
Vision:

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Mission:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.

We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.



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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

All K-12 EQAO assessments for the 2019-2020 school year were cancelled, as per direction from the Ministry of Education, due to the extraordinary circumstances facing the province. EQAO has focused on a multi-year modernization initiative. In 2020-21, EQAO assessments for Grades 3 and 6 were paused while EQAO aligned assessments with the new elementary math curriculum and transitioned to a new online adaptive platform. In 2021-2022, regular EQAO assessments will resume with some adaptations. This report provides an update.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 5 hours.

B. PURPOSE

1. This report provides an update regarding the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessments.

C. BACKGROUND

PRIOR TO 2019-2020

2. Administration of Assessments:
The Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Primary Division (Grades 1–3) and Junior Division (Grades 4–6) are administered to:
 - all Ontario students at the end of the primary division (Grade 3) and, at the end of the junior division (Grade 6).

The Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics is administered to:

- all Ontario students who are working toward their Grade 9 academic or applied mathematics credit.

Grade 9 students in the first-semester mathematics courses take the test in January; students in the second-semester or full-year mathematics courses take the test in June.

The OSSLT is administered to:

- all Grade 10 Ontario students working towards an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) at the end of March or early April.

Successful completion of the OSSLT is a requirement for the OSSD.

What is measured?

All assessments measure cumulative knowledge and skills and are based on the Ontario Curriculum.

Reporting

Primary, Junior and Grade 9 Assessments

- the province reports four levels of achievement.
- the provincial standard is Level 3, which corresponds to a 70 to 79 percent mark.

OSSLT

- “successful” or “unsuccessful”.

AFTER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

2019-2020

3. All K-12 EQAO assessments for the 2019-2020 school year were cancelled, as per direction from the Ministry of Education. As a result, the successful completion of the OSSLT requirement to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma was waived for students eligible to graduate.

2020-2021

4. No Primary and Junior EQAO assessments took place in the 2020-2021 school year. They were paused while EQAO aligned assessments with the new elementary math curriculum and transitioned to a new online adaptive platform.
5. EQAO focused on a multi-year modernization initiative to ensure that the agency continues to meet the needs of Ontarians. EQAO began planning for the modernization and digitalization of assessments.
6. In preparation, in 2020-2021, EQAO field tested a new online and adaptive assessment for students enrolled in Grade 9 academic and applied

mathematics attending learning in-person. The TCDSB planned to administer the field test in the third quad; however, students could not participate as learning was not in-person at the time.

7. EQAO planned to administer an online OSSLT field test in the spring for students attending learning in-person. However, students could not participate as learning was not in-person at the time.
8. In 2021, EQAO did not publish any public reports (e.g., the provincial report, board report) because it was a field test and not all school boards participated. The plan is to roll out these online assessments in all schools across Ontario in 2021-2022.
9. In 2020-2021, the successful completion of the OSSLT requirement to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma was waived for students eligible to graduate.

2021-2022

10. In a Memorandum from the Ministry of Education (May 4, 2021), the following information was outlined to support planning for the 2021-2022 school year.
11. In 2021-2022, regular EQAO assessments will resume, with the following adaptations:
 - a. All students in Grade 3 and 6 attending in-person learning will participate in the online primary/junior EQAO math, reading, and writing assessments.
 - b. All students enrolled in Grade 9 mathematics attending learning in-person will write the Grade 9 mathematics assessment. Results of this assessment may count towards up to 10% of the student's final mark.
12. Students graduating in the 2021-2022 school year are exempted from the literacy graduation requirement and do not need to write the OSSLT.
13. EQAO will provide a Fall 2021 administration of the OSSLT in addition to a Spring 2022 administration.
14. All Grade 10 and 11 (and non-graduating) students are encouraged to take the OSSLT to allow for maximum flexibility in acquiring the literacy

graduation requirement. Students can enrol in the Ontario Literacy Course (OLC) without requiring that they attempt and fail the OSSLT first.

15. For EQAO assessments, including the OSSLT, students who are learning remotely and wish to participate in the assessments can, at the discretion of the school board, attend in-person on the days of the assessment(s) solely for the purpose of participating in the assessment so long as all applicable health and safety measures can be met.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

The last public reporting of EQAO assessments was for the 2018-2019 school year. Results for TCDSB and Ontario are shown below. In 2021-2022, regular EQAO assessments will resume. Tentative dates for the assessment are also shown below.

2018-2019: EQAO Results for TCDSB *(Ontario results in parentheses)*

OSSLT	Successful	84% (80%)
Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics	Academic	83% (84%)
	Applied	48% (44%)
Primary	Reading	76% (74%)
	Writing	75% (69%)
	Mathematics	58% (58%)
Junior	Reading	79% (81%)
	Writing	84% (82%)
	Mathematics	44% (48%)

2021-2022: EQAO Tentative dates across Ontario

Note: dates may vary slightly as the EQAO agency continues to respond to Ministry of Education and public health directives.

OSSLT	Fall 2021 October 13 – December 1, 2021 Individual student results reported by the end of January 2022 Spring 2022 March 23 – May 18, 2022
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	• Individual student results reported by the end of June 2022
Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics	Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 October 1, 2021 – June 24, 2022 • Individual student results reported by the early fall 2022
Primary- and Junior-Division Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics	Spring 2022 May 4 – June 24, 2022. • Individual student results reported by the early fall 2022

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. The EQAO assessments help to identify trends in student learning at the school, board and provincial levels, which inform improvement planning, and strengthen accountability.
2. EQAO assessment results are used in conjunction with other data to coordinate plans for improving student achievement and well-being consistent with the TCDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan and Ministry of Education initiatives, and to inform our Board Learning and Improvement Plan.

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the information of the Board.