

Supports for Students Writing the OSSLT

“Accommodations enable students with special needs to demonstrate their competencies in the skills being measured. In order to do this, changes can be made to the way the test is administered and/or alternative formats can be provided to help students to read or write the test.”

- TCDSB *An Information Guide for Parents of Students Who Are Exceptional*

For students with an **Individual Education Plan (IEP)**, the accommodations noted in the IEP and permitted by EQAO may be provided to students during the OSSLT. Contact your child’s school to further discuss these accommodations.

For **English Language Learners***, special provisions permitted by EQAO may be provided to students during the OSSLT. Contact your child’s school to further discuss these special provisions.

* **“English Language Learners** are students whose first language is a language other than English, or is a variety of English that is significantly different from the variety used for instruction in Ontario schools, and who may require focused educational supports...”
www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/manyroots/manyroots.pdf

Resources

A Parent’s Guide to EQAO Tests available at http://www.eqao.com/pdf_e/09/Cpbweb_36e_0909.pdf

Assessing Every Student: The Power of Good Information http://www.eqao.com/pdf_e/09/Assessing_Every_Student_POGI_E_1109.pdf

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test: Framework available at http://www.eqao.com/pdf_e/06/06P051e.pdf

OSSLT Tests and Scoring Materials, Sample Test Materials, and Characteristics of Successful and Unsuccessful Student Performance on the OSSLT available at <http://www.eqao.com/Parents/Secondary/10/10.aspx?Lang=E&gr=10>

Links

Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) www.eqao.com

Ministry of Education www.edu.gov.on.ca

Toronto Catholic District School Board www.tcdsb.org

Toronto Catholic District School Board Student Success www.successforall.ca

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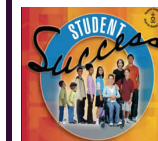
The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test—OSSLT

“In a school community formed by Catholic beliefs and traditions, our mission is to educate students to their full potential.”

Parent Information

“...Those who use literacy take it for granted – but those who cannot use it are excluded from much communication in today’s world. Indeed, it is the excluded who can best appreciate the notion of ‘literacy as freedom.’”

- UNESCO statement



Ann Perron
Director of Education



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The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT): Parent Information

The OSSLT—An Overview

- The OSSLT is written by grade ten students who are tracking for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).
- The OSSLT is based on the curriculum expectations up to and including **grade nine**. It is not solely based on English expectations.
- Students must pass the entire test—reading and writing sections—to fulfill their literacy requirement.
- Students who are unsuccessful on their first attempt may write the test the following year.
- Students who are unsuccessful on the OSSLT may enrol in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (with principal’s approval). If a student passes this course, he / she will fulfill his / her literacy requirement.

The successful completion of the OSSLT is **one of the requirements** for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). The OSSLT will be administered on **Thursday, April 8, 2010.**

What is the purpose of the OSSLT?

As described in *Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test: Framework*, the OSSLT has been designed to “determine whether a student has the reading and writing skills required to meet the standards of the *Ontario Curriculum* across all subjects up to the end of grade nine.”

According to EQAO, “Provincial assessments [such as the OSSLT] that gather information from every student provide an essential foundation of data that educators, policy-makers and researchers rely on to plan for student progress.” *Assessing Every Student* available at http://www.eqao.com/pdf_e/09/Assessing_Every_Student_POGI_E_1109.pdf



What is the format of the OSSLT?

The OSSLT is comprised of two booklets. Each booklet has both reading and writing tasks.

Students will have to respond to ...

- Multiple-choice questions based on reading selections and writing conventions
- Open response questions based on reading selections
- Short writing tasks (e.g., one paragraph)
- Longer writing tasks (e.g., 1—2 pages)

The OSSLT contains the following **reading and writing** tasks:

- **Reading** a dialogue 
- **Reading** a graphic selection
- **Reading** a news report
- **Reading** a real-life narrative
- **Reading** an expository selection 
- **Writing** a news report
- **Writing** a summary
- **Writing** an expository paragraph
- **Writing** a series of paragraphs expressing an opinion 