

June 23, 2020

Memorandum to: Director of Education  
School Authorities

From: Nancy Naylor  
Deputy Minister of Education

Dear colleagues,

I would like to begin by thanking you for your work to support student learning during this unprecedented time. Now, more than ever, we need to ensure that students have the skills they need to succeed.

As announced in the [four-year math strategy](#) in 2019, the government is committed to improving student math performance. As part of that commitment, the Ministry of Education is releasing the new elementary math curriculum, which was last updated in 2005. The new curriculum will be implemented in classrooms across the province starting in September 2020.

This curriculum was informed by the 2018 [public consultation](#) with parents, educators and education stakeholders. The curriculum was also informed by extensive research led by Dr. Christine Suurtamm (Vice-Dean of Research and Professional Development and Full Professor of Mathematics Education at the Faculty of Education, University of Ottawa), analysis of best practices from other jurisdictions, expert knowledge and input from stakeholders, academics and math industry experts.

This curriculum will be available to all students, teachers and parents through the digital curriculum platform, which can be accessed from these websites: [Ontario.ca/curriculum](#) (English language) and [Ontario.ca/programmes-cadres](#) (French language). Additional teaching supports will be embedded in the new curriculum in the coming weeks.

The new elementary math curriculum describes the knowledge and skills that students are expected to learn in each grade. It is organized into six areas: number, algebra, data, spatial sense and financial literacy, with social-emotional learning skills in mathematics and mathematical processes being taught as part of the learning through all strands. Social-emotional learning skills help students build confidence in their math skills and think critically to support their overall well-being.

The ministry is committed to supporting teachers through training and resources, including webinars, online resources, and funding for release time. Initial implementation supports will be released throughout the summer and fall.

As a first step, the ministry will be hosting introductory webinars for board math teams, including Board-Based Math Learning Leads and Superintendents responsible

for math. Additional information regarding these webinars and implementation resources and supports will be provided shortly.

The ministry is also revising assessment and reporting for the math curriculum. The ministry is moving to one mark for math, instead of providing a separate mark for each strand. The provincial report card templates will also be updated for the 2020-21 school year to align with the new curriculum. Samples of the revised report card templates will be posted shortly. We encourage school boards to ensure that your report card vendor is aware of the new templates for the upcoming school year.

Questions regarding the new curriculum can be addressed to your regional office.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for your leadership in the implementation of the new math curriculum.

Sincerely,

Nancy Naylor  
Deputy Minister of Education

- c: Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
- Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'ontario (ACÉPO)
- Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
- Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
- Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
- Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
- General Secretary, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
- General Secretary, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
- General Secretary, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
- Chair, Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW)
- Chair, Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario (EWAO)
- Co-ordinator, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)