

**Memorandum to:** Ontario Association of Deans of Education

**From:** Nancy Naylor  
Deputy Minister of Education

**Subject:** Mathematics Proficiency Test for Registration with the Ontario College of Teachers

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I am writing to provide an update on the preparation for the introduction of a mathematics proficiency test.

You will recall that Bill 48, the *Safe and Supportive Classrooms Act, 2019*, received Royal Assent on April 3, 2019 which amended the *Ontario College of Teachers Act, 1996* (OCTA). One of these amendments requires that applicants successfully complete a math proficiency test to register with the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT). Two new regulations now specify the details of the test including its development and delivery.

On August 20, 2019, two regulations were filed: Ontario Regulation 271/19 *Proficiency in Mathematics*, under the OCTA, and Ontario Regulation 272/19 *Objects of the Office* under the *Education Quality and Accountability Office Act, 1996*.

With the *Proficiency in Mathematics* regulation, new applicants to the OCT will be required to successfully pass a mathematics proficiency test if their application for registration is completed on or after March 31, 2020.

The *Objects of the Office* regulation mandates the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) to develop the test.

Ontario faculties of education will administer the test in accordance with instructions provided by EQAO. While it is not mandatory for current members of the OCT to write the test, they will be able to do so voluntarily. As such, faculties of education shall permit any members of the OCT to take the test. They will also be responsible for providing completed tests to EQAO within a specific timeframe.

Math content knowledge is critical, but it is not enough for teaching mathematics. Therefore, the test will include both math content and pedagogical knowledge questions. At least 70 per cent of the test will be math content and the remainder pedagogy. The test will be divided into two sections: math and pedagogy. Candidates will require a mark of 70 per cent or higher in each of the two sections to successfully pass the test.

The math questions will include concepts taught in both the elementary and secondary grades. The pedagogical questions will focus on teachers' foundational understanding of math assessment, planning, and facilitating student learning specific to mathematics. This approach builds confidence that teachers are well prepared for teaching the mathematics curriculum, regardless of the grade assigned.

EQAO will mark the test and provide the result to the person who took it, as well as identify to the OCT the persons who have successfully completed the test. EQAO will also conduct research and collect information relating to the candidate's confidence and proficiency in mathematics. It is expected that EQAO will develop online preparation and support materials, including practice tests, that would be made available to support teacher candidates.

There will be no fee to write the test on the first attempt for those who must pass the test to register with the OCT. A fee will be required for subsequent and/or voluntary attempts. There is also no limit on the number of times a person may take the mathematics test.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to supporting teachers to become better prepared to teach the fundamentals of mathematics. The new math proficiency test will enhance teacher confidence and sense of efficacy in teaching mathematics, which will help ensure that students are better prepared for success in all aspects of their lives.

Sincerely,

Nancy Naylor  
Deputy Minister

CC: Martyn Beckett, Chief Student Achievement Officer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Student Achievement Division

Norah Marsh, CEO, Education Quality Accountability Office

Dr. Cameron Montgomery, Chair, Education Quality Accountability Office

Directors of Education

Council of Ontario Directors of Education

Ontario Teachers' Federation

Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens

Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario

Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association

Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation

Ontario Principals' Council

Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario

Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes

Ontario Public Supervisory Officers' Association

Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association

Association des gestionnaires de l'éducation franco-ontarienne

Ontario Catholic School Business Officials Association

Ontario Association of School Business Officials

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Ontario College of Teachers