

November 4, 2016

EQAO Decision on Scoring and Reporting of Online OSSLT

Dear Teachers, Administrators and Support Staff,

The EQAO team is aware of how much work you put into preparing for the online trial of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) on October 20, 2016. Many of you helped students study, coordinated logistics for the assessment and made special arrangements so that the event could succeed. As we all know, things did not go according to plan, and EQAO shares your disappointment about this trial's failure.

The decision whether to score and report the results for the students who were able to write was informed by numerous factors, including the best interests of students, a strong consensus within Ontario's education community, equity considerations and our ability to ensure the data received through the system are accurate and complete. We consulted with Ontario's education community about next steps and, after a review of the various factors, we can confirm that EQAO will be scoring and reporting for the following groups of students:

- students for whom we received complete responses for both Sessions 1 and 2 (i.e., *Booklets 1 and 2*) and
- students for whom we received a number of responses and a mix of different question types (i.e., multiple-choice, reading, short writing and long writing) from both Sessions 1 and 2 substantial enough to allow for a result.

Students who were not able to access the testing site, who did not have the opportunity to complete the test or who were not successful will still be considered first-time eligible for the regularly scheduled OSSLT in March 2017. In addition, students who attempted this trial will be eligible for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC) at the principal's discretion.

Results from the October 20 online OSSLT trial will be sent to schools in mid-January 2017. Schools will receive a report that lists students in two categories: "Successful" and "Made an Attempt." No aggregate school or board results will be reported for the October administration. As always, we are making every effort to consider each student's work, which will be double-scored according to standard practice. There is no appeals process for the October 20 online OSSLT trial.

We apologize for the anxiety, frustration and disruption caused by the cyberattack on the online OSSLT. Our team will be sure to keep you informed of any further developments. If, however, you have questions in the meantime, please contact EQAO at 1-888-327-7377 or email email@eqao.com.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Jones, Ph.D.
Director, Assessment
EQAO