



November 10, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Re: Upcoming Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

Beginning **Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**, Grade 10 students, Grade 11 students, and Grade 12 students who will not be graduating this academic year will write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). As the literacy graduation requirement for all students graduating during the 2021–2022 school year has been waived, graduating students do not need to take the OSSLT. The OSSLT is administered by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), an independent agency of the Government of Ontario, in order to determine whether students have acquired the minimum literacy (reading and writing) skills expected by *The Ontario Curriculum* across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9. All students in the province of Ontario will write this test.

This year, the OSSLT will be administered to students through their English classes. At Earl Haig Secondary School, there will be two sets of writing sessions; one set taking place in the Fall; (**November 15<sup>th</sup> – December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**). The second set will take place in the Spring; (**March 23<sup>rd</sup> – May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022**).

Students who are absent during their scheduled session in this Fall, will have an opportunity to write the test during the Spring 2022 Sessions. As this test must be administered in a face-to-face format, students currently enrolled as Virtual Students will write the OSSLT during the Spring Session. Further specific details for Virtual Students will be provided closer to the start of the Spring Sessions.

The test consists of two online booklets, each containing multiple-choice and open-response questions. The test will be administered on a given day in one 90-minute block and one 75-minute block. All questions are based directly on the expectations set out in *The Ontario Curriculum*, which is what teachers teach in the classroom every day.

Students have the opportunity to become familiar with the online test and its platform through EQAO's online practice test ([tinyurl.com/OSSLTEHSS](https://tinyurl.com/OSSLTEHSS)). The online practice test comprises two sessions, which include content from previous tests. The practice test is equivalent to the two sessions students will be completing during the live test. In addition, the practice test includes an introductory session that allows students to become familiar with the new online platform's tools and functions.

On the scheduled day and time, which students have already been advised of, all students scheduled to write on a given day are asked to report directly to the Library where attendance will be taken, and each student will be assigned to specific computer. **There will be two writing sessions each day; a morning session which will begin promptly at 8:45 a.m. and an afternoon session which will begin promptly at 12:15 p.m.** Students are asked to arrive at the Earl Haig Library no later than 15 minutes prior to the start of their scheduled test. On the day of the test, students will be given a 15-minute break after the completion of Booklet One.

Snacks will also be provided. Students who are scheduled to write the OSSLT in the afternoon will complete the test by 3:15 p.m. (This schedule may differ for students who require accommodations based on an Individual Education Plan.)

In January 2022, EQAO will send our school a report for each student who writes the OSSLT during the Fall Session, and we will send it home at that time. Results for students who write the test during the Spring Session will be made available by EQAO in June 2022. The results are private and will give you an indication of how well your child is mastering the required literacy skills, which are the foundation for success in all subjects and in life beyond school. The OSSLT is a minimum-competency test. Achievement is therefore reported as "successful" or "unsuccessful."

OSSLT results do not count toward students' grades, but successful completion of the test is a requirement for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. There are supports for students who do not pass, including an opportunity to rewrite the test or to take the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course.

You can use your child's results on the OSSLT to understand his or her strengths and areas for improvement, and to monitor and celebrate his or her progress. The results can also help you in discussions with teachers. As a school community, we use these results, along with other information, to guide our school improvement initiatives. This benefits not only your child but all the students in our school. The results are also used by our school board and the Ministry of Education to direct attention and resources where they are needed.

For more information about EQAO and to view a sample of its assessments, visit [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com).

Sincerely,



Ms. A. Colavita  
Vice Principal