



Statement from The Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education

On behalf of parents of students in Ontario's publicly funded Catholic schools across the province, we would like to express our opposition to the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) and their mis-guided plan to proceed to administer the Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT).

In the midst of a pandemic parents have tried to mitigate learning loss at the expense of their families own mental health. As parents we have already seen the impact of stress that the EQAO preparation and testing has on our children when there isn't a global pandemic and given this, we feel that this is an unnecessary distraction and burden for students who are required to take the assessment. It is abundantly clear that any resulting data will be markedly skewed given the inequities in learning across the province and also due to the quad masters that many boards have adopted. There is also a high probability that some students will not have even covered the content to be assessed, let alone recognize that this is more of an additional workload on already overworked Education staff.

Furthermore, OAPCE recommends that the deferral of this test not only take place this year, but as well for the 2021/22 school year so that students can focus on closing their learning gaps, building their resilience that has been truly tested this year, and focus on working toward positive outcomes to achieve their overall school success.