



Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders OAFCCD

Provincial Testing - What You Need to Know

Province wide assessment of students provides information on how individual students are doing and helps school staff, school boards and the Ministry of Education make decisions about improving the school system.

Currently province wide assessment involves Grade 3 and 6 tests for reading, writing and mathematics, Grade 9 for Mathematics and the Grade 10 Literacy Test. The **Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO)** is responsible for developing and analyzing provincial tests. Testing is based on the Ontario Curriculum and involves a variety of assessment activities.

All students are expected to participate in provincial testing, and the Grade 10 Literacy Test must be completed and passed to obtain the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Students who need special education programs and services may require **accommodations** in order to participate in the testing. Generally students are allowed the same accommodations for provincial testing as they would have in a regular classroom setting. However, those accommodations must be identified and documented in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) in advance of the testing. Some special education students are working on curriculum expectations which have been modified from the usual expectations of students in the same grade and class. **Modification** of the expectations in the provincial testing is usually not permitted.

There are a variety of resources for parents which will help you to become more familiar with provincial assessments. In addition, there are a variety of resources to help you and your child prepare for provincial testing. The EQAO Website at www.eqao.com includes a number of helpful resources, and most schools have information about the tests, and how they will work with students and families to prepare for the tests.

Valuable Resources for Families:

Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) *Parent Handbook 2000-2001*

Policy/Program Memorandum No. 127 (October 5, 2001): *Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test in English Language Secondary Schools - Accommodations, Deferrals, and Exceptions.*

Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) *Be Informed Be Ready - Getting Ready Guide*

Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) *Guide for Accommodations, Special Provisions, Deferrals, and Exemptions*

Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) *Support Materials for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, Reading Tips and Writing Tips*

Source: OAFCCD [2001](#)