

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

All students must successfully complete the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test in order to earn a secondary school diploma. The test will be administered in Grade 10. The test is based on the expectations for reading and writing across subjects in the Ontario Curriculum up to the end of Grade 9. The test will determine who has attained the provincial expectations for literacy. It will identify areas for remediation for students who are unsuccessful in completing the test. School boards are required to provide remedial assistance following the test for students who require it. The literacy test may not be retaken once it has been successfully completed.

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course - OSSLT

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course has been developed to provide students who have been unsuccessful on the OSSLT with intensive support and an alternative means of demonstrating the required reading and writing competencies. Students who have had at least two opportunities to write the OSSLT and who have failed it at least once will be eligible to take *OLC4OR: The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course* in grade 12. The successful completion of this grade 12 course will satisfy the literacy requirement for graduation. Course expectations cannot be modified but accommodations may be made for students who have an IEP. Students who obtain a graduation diploma by passing the grade 12 Literacy Course will be required to demonstrate a standard of reading and writing skills comparable to those measured by the Literacy Test.

Adjudication Process

A board adjudication panel is established at the end of the school year to provide certain students with an additional opportunity to meet the literacy graduation requirement. These are the students who otherwise would be eligible to graduate in June but, through no fault of their own, have not been able to take advantage of the normal opportunities to write the OSSLT and/or have not been able to enroll in or complete the OSSLC, owing to unforeseen circumstances. Also eligible for the adjudication process are students who were receiving special education programs or services, and who had an IEP documented required accommodations, but, owing to unforeseen circumstances, did not have access to these accommodations when they were taking the OSSLT.

Accommodations

A student who is receiving a special education program or service and who has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) will receive the accommodations noted in the IEP that match accommodations permitted by the Education Quality and Accountability Office. These accommodations must be consistent with those available to the student completing his or her regular school work, including examinations and other forms of evaluation.

Deferrals

Deferrals are intended for students who have not yet acquired a level of proficiency in English to successfully complete the Literacy Test. This may include students who have been identified as Exceptional, or students who have been unsuccessful in achieving the reading and writing skills appropriate for grade 9. Deferrals may also be granted for students who are unable to write the test during the scheduled administration due to illness, injury or other extenuating circumstances. The principal will determine if a deferral should be granted. Deferred students are expected to write the OSSLT during the next administration of the test.

Exemptions

A student must have an IEP that clearly indicates he or she is not working towards a Secondary School Diploma in order to be exempted from writing the OSSLT. The principal, in consultation with the parent(s) and student, will make all decisions regarding exemptions.