

January 10, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

You are receiving this email because you have a child in a Halton Catholic Secondary School, who is currently taking Grade 9 Applied or Academic Math in Semester 1.

This letter is a follow up to the email you received earlier today, regarding the announcement by the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA) confirming that they will begin 'job action' as of Monday, January 13, 2020.

I am writing to let you know that in light of this job action, **the decision has been made that HCDSB schools will NOT administer the EQAO Grade 9 Math Assessment**, scheduled to take place in our schools on January 14th and 15th 2020.

What is EQAO Testing?

The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) is an independent provincial agency funded by the Government of Ontario. EQAO's mandate is to conduct province-wide standards-based tests in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at key points in every student's education and report the results to educators, parents and the public.

All Ontario students who are enrolled in Grade 9 Applied or Academic Mathematics courses are typically required to take the EQAO Grade 9 Math Assessment. The Grade 9 Math curriculum prepares students for the assessment, which takes place twice each school year - once per semester.

Why the Decision NOT to Administer the Grade 9 EQAO Math Assessment During Job Action?

As part of this job action, OECTA has directed its members (teachers) not to participate in any EQAO activities, including field testing, marking, administrative duties, test preparation, or administration of the test. The labour sanctions will also make it difficult to implement the accommodations (such as scribing, reading of questions, and extra time) that many students rely on in order to be successful on the assessment.

*After careful deliberation, we have determined that it is not possible to administer the EQAO assessment without the involvement of teachers. We will therefore **postpone the administration of the Grade 9 EQAO Math Assessment next week.***

In a statement issued on January 8, 2020 the Minister of Education noted that students who do not take the EQAO Grade 9 Math Assessment in January will need to take the test in June. We will await further direction and clarification from the Ministry with regards to a make-up test for Semester 1 Grade 9 Math students.

Will This Affect My Child's Final Mark in Math?

The postponement of the assessment will not count against your child's final mark.

It has been the practice in our HCDSB schools to include the student's EQAO results as part of their final grade in Grade 9 Math. This will not be possible this semester.

Teachers, as always, will use all evidence of student achievement to determine the student's report card grade. The course culminating assignment and final exam will allow students an opportunity to demonstrate comprehensive achievement of the overall expectations for the course.

Information Updates

For more information about the collective bargaining process, please visit: bit.ly/HCDSB-LabourUpdates.

As new information becomes available, we will continue to provide updates through:

- Email to parents
- HCDSB website – www.hcdsb.org
- Twitter [@HCDSB](https://twitter.com/HCDSB)

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this period of job action.



Pat Daly
Director of Education