

March 18, 2020

Updates from the Ministry of Education Related to School Closure Period

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to share a few updates we received from the Ministry of Education yesterday evening.

EQAO Assessments CANCELLED

On March 17, 2020, the Ministry of Education confirmed that EQAO assessments will be **CANCELLED** for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

This means that:

- The Grade 3, 6, and 9 **EQAO assessments will NOT take place this school year.**
- The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) assessment WILL NOT take place this school year.
- The Ministry has further indicated that the literacy graduation requirement will be **WAIVED** for students who are graduating in the 2019-2020 school year.
- Students who are not graduating this school year will have the opportunity to write the OSSLT in the upcoming 2020-2021 school year.

Continuity of Learning for Students

On March 17, 2020, the Ministry of Education shared that they are working on plans to support the continuity of learning during this school closure period. The Ministry will be launching a site with a single point of access to online learning opportunities. We will share this information with students and families when it becomes available.

Frequently Asked Questions

Just a reminder that we have posted an **FAQ** on our website, and will be updating it regularly as new information becomes available.

Helpful Resources for Parents

We have posted some resources for families to help parents and guardians support children and youth during this time.

- [Mental Health Tips & Resources for HCDSB Families](#)
- [Talking with Children: Tips for Caregivers, Parents & Teachers](#)
- [Talking to Children About COVID-19 – A Parent Resource](#)

More Information

As always, we will continue to post updates on our Board website at: bit.ly/COVID-19Updates-HCDSB and will share information directly by email with our parents and staff as it is available.

We continue to keep in our thoughts and prayers all who are sick and those who are working diligently on the frontlines to keep our community healthy and safe.



Pat Daly
Director of Education