

From: Ministry of Education (EDU) <MinistryofEducation@ontario.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:32:57 PM

Subject: Mathematics Proficiency Test and Initial Teacher Education Practicum Update

Memorandum to: Nicole van Woudenberg, Chair of Council, Ontario College of Teachers
Chantal Bélisle, Deputy Registrar, Ontario College of Teachers
Dr. Cameron Montgomery, Chair, Education Quality and Accountability Office
Laurie McNelles, Chief Operating Officer, Education Quality and Accountability Office
Rebecca Luce Kapler, Chair, Ontario Association of Deans of Education
Chandra Foote, Chair, Independent Ontario Deans of Education

From: Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister of Education

Subject Mathematics Proficiency Test and Initial Teacher Education Practicum Update

I am writing to provide an update on the Mathematics Proficiency Test (MPT) and the initial teacher education program practicum, which are requirements for certification by the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) and graduation from an initial teacher education program respectively.

As a result of public health measures taken to stop the spread of COVID-19, many teacher candidates will not be able to meet these criteria.

With respect to the MPT, an amendment has been made to Ontario Regulation 271/19 (Proficiency in Mathematics) made under the *Ontario College of Teachers Act, 1996* (OCTA) to authorize the Registrar of the OCT to certify, with condition, individuals who complete their application on or after March 31, 2020. This condition stipulates that the applicant must successfully complete the MPT by August 31, 2021. Teacher candidates who have written and successfully passed the field test are already considered to have met the MPT certification requirement and will not have this condition applied.

To provide applicants with opportunities to complete the test before the condition expires, the ministry will work with the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) on options to administer the test online. The ministry is also continuing to plan for in-person administration of the MPT at test centres, once public health officials advise that it is safe to do so. To help applicants to the OCT prepare for the MPT, EQAO will continue to include sample questions, a practice test and other resources on mathproficiencytest.ca to assist with preparation.

With respect to missed practicum days, an amendment has been made to Ontario Regulation 176/10 (Teachers' Qualifications) made under the OCTA. This amendment will allow teacher candidates in their final semester of an Ontario initial teacher education program, despite not

having completed the practicum component, to be eligible for certification by the College if they have successfully completed all other graduation components of the program, including a portion of the practicum. The missed practicum days must have been missed solely as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak and the closure of schools.

The ministry recognizes that this is an unprecedented time for teacher candidates, faculties of education and the wider education sector. Faculties of education are asked to please share this information with teacher candidates as soon as possible.

Learn about how the Government is supporting people, businesses and families during COVID-19 by visiting www.ontario.ca/coronavirus.

Your continued support and collaboration are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister

c: Scott Perkin, Secretary-Treasurer, Ontario Teachers' Federation
Michael Snowdon, Senior Policy Analyst, Council of Ontario Universities
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