

December 1, 2020 3:25 PM

Memorandum to: Directors of Education
School Authorities

From: Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister of Education

Subject: New Elementary Report Cards and Update on the
Evaluation of Social-Emotional Learning Skills

I am writing to share with you the new Elementary Report Card templates.

The provincial report card templates for Grades 1 to 6 and Grades 7 and 8 have been updated to reflect the new direction described in [Growing Success: The Mathematics Addendum, Grades 1 to 8, 2020](#). This includes one overall mark for mathematics. Samples are available on the [ministry's website](#). Please work with your vendor to ensure updates to report cards are made in time for the first reporting period between January 20, 2021 - February 20, 2021.

I would also like to bring your attention to emerging research on evaluation and reporting of social-emotional learning skills. According to emerging research, educator bias can negatively affect the evaluation of social-emotional learning skills in relation to particular groups of students (e.g., Black, Indigenous, racialized students, male students, students with disabilities and students experiencing other socio-demographic disadvantages). At the same time, social-emotional learning skills can be a critical component of student learning. Because of the positive effects, these skills have been built into two recently released elementary curricula (Health and Physical Education (2019) and Mathematics (2020)). When implemented through an anti-racist, culturally responsive and relevant lens, they support positive mental health, contribute to academic success, and can prepare all students to become successful and productive citizens.

Supports have been provided to educators on strategies for integrating social-emotional learning skills into their instructional practices. However, to ensure all students benefit from bias-free assessment of social-emotional learning, additional supports focused on anti-racist, anti-discriminatory, and culturally responsive and relevant approaches to instruction, assessment and evaluation are necessary.

In light of this, your school board may wish to instruct teachers to pause the evaluation and reporting of the overall expectations A1 related to social-emotional learning skills in *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8, Mathematics (2020)* and *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8, Health and Physical Education (2019)* for the 2020-21 school year. The following comment may be used on the report card: "Students' social-emotional learning skills have not been evaluated".

It is the ministry's expectation that instruction of the social-emotional learning skills will continue while educators engage in ongoing professional learning. The ministry will be providing this targeted professional learning in the new year. More information about this professional learning will be available shortly.

Please share the information about the new report card with your school and school board communities.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister

- c: Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'ontario (ACÉPO)
- Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
- Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
- Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
- Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
- Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
- General Secretary, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
- General Secretary, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
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- Chair, Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW)
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Co-ordinator, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)
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Executive Director, Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)
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Executive Director, School Mental Health Ontario
Co-Presidents, The Ontario Association for the Support of Physical Health Educators (OASPHE)
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President, Ontario Alliance of Black School Educators (ONABSE)
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