

January 10, 2020

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS REGARDING POSTPONEMENT OF GRADE 9 EQAO MATHEMATICS ASSESSMENT**

The Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA) has indicated it will initiate job action commencing on Monday, January 13.

Monday, January 13 is also the start of the period where Grade 9 students are scheduled to take the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessment in mathematics. All Ontario students who are enrolled in a Grade 9 applied or Grade 9 academic mathematics courses are required to take the EQAO Grade 9 Mathematics Assessment. Teachers have been teaching the math curriculum throughout semester one. The curriculum taught aligns with, and prepares students for, the EQAO Grade 9 Mathematics Assessment.

As part of its job action, OECTA has directed its members not to participate in EQAO preparation and testing. This includes the administration and subsequent marking of the mathematics assessment. The labour sanctions would make it difficult to provide the accommodations that many students rely on in order to be successful on the assessment. These accommodations would include scribing, the reading of questions and extra time to complete the assessment.

In our view, it is not possible or practical to administer the EQAO assessment without the involvement of teachers. As central negotiations have adjourned and no new meetings are scheduled before Monday, January 13, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) is postponing the Grade 9 EQAO Mathematics Assessment.

It has been the practice of the DPCDSB to include a student's performance on the EQAO Grade 9 Mathematics Assessment as part of the student's final grade, which forms part of their overall mark in the course. The postponement of the assessment will not count against students' final mark. Teachers will record "no mark" for this portion of the final assessment, and the student's mark will be calculated from their term mark and final exam in academic classes, and term mark and culminating performance task (c.p.t.) in applied classes.

In a statement issued on January 8, the Minister of Education said that students who do not take the EQAO Grade 9 Mathematics Assessment in January will need to take the test in June. The board will await further direction from the Ministry regarding a make-up test for Semester 1 students.

We encourage you to closely monitor DPCDSB communications during this period of job action. We will post information on an ongoing basis on the Labour Relations page of the DPCDSB website which is linked from the main page ([www.dpcdsb.org](http://www.dpcdsb.org)). We also encourage you to follow @DPCDSBSchools on Twitter for any updates.

Thank you for your attention to this important information.