



Email sent March 10, 2021

Subject: Information regarding the OSSLT

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians of Sir Winston Churchill,

KEY POINTS:

1. Grade 10 and 11 students will be given the option to write an online version of the OSSLT on designated days in April and May. Graduating 2021 students are exempt from the literacy requirement.
2. We will offer feedback to students who completed an OSSLT practice test last semester, continue embedding literacy support in classrooms, and offer an after-school "Tips & Tricks" virtual session to test writers in April.

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test measures whether students are meeting the minimum standard for literacy across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9. Successful completion of the literacy test is one of the requirements to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

EQAO will be field testing a new online version of the OSSLT from March 2021 until June 2021. The field test will be available to students in Grade 10, 11, and 12 who are working toward their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). **This will allow the opportunity for students in Grades 10 and 11, and non-graduating Grade 12 students, to attempt the test.** If successful, this will count towards their literacy graduation requirement. Because the Ministry of Education has waived the literacy graduation requirement for all students graduating during the 2020–2021 school year, graduating students do not need to take the OSSLT field test.

Special accommodations for testing at the school will be made to ensure that Cohort O students have the opportunity to test. The school will be reaching out to Cohort O students to make these arrangements. In-person students will remain with their assigned cohorts and classes for testing. Testing will occur over a three week period from the week of April 19th to the week of May 3rd. We will focus on period 2 classes for Grade 10s and period 3 classes for Grade 11s. A more detailed schedule will be shared closer to April.

Specifically, the scheduled dates for students to complete the test is as follows:

- Grade 10 **in-person cohort** students will complete the test during period 2 classes on April 20th, April 23rd, May 5th and May 7th.
- Grade 11 **in-person cohort** students will complete the test during period 3 classes on April 26th, April 28th and April 29th.
- **Cohort O** students will be invited to complete the test in the cafeteria during the week of May 3rd.

Sir Winston Churchill staff, in conjunction with our Literacy Team, are committed to helping our students prepare for the OSSLT.

- Over the course of the school year, all teachers have been incorporating literacy skills into their regular class program.
- Opportunities for practice were made available to all students last semester. Students who took the practice test semester one will soon be receiving feedback via an email.
- For additional help in preparation, students may visit the EQAO website at www.EQAO.com to access information on practice test tips and through the following link below to access a full practice test at: <https://d1c1qqn86e6v14.cloudfront.net/#/en/student/osslt-assessment>.
- We will also offer an “OSSLT Tips & Tricks” virtual session to test writers the week of April 6. More to come!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Vice-Principal Scott Ellis who is taking the lead with creating literacy schedules, or Deborah Cox who is taking the lead with literacy support materials.

Sincerely,

Ms. A. Gilmore, Principal