



English As A Second Language/English Literacy Development
Resource Group of Ontario
www.ergo-on.ca

ELL Participation in Secondary OSSLT, 2021-2022

Released: October, 2021

The following information is provided to clarify the participation of English language learners (ELLs) in the secondary EQAO Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). **Please note that student results will be reported to school principals for this assessment year. Students who are successful on the 2021-2022 OSSLT will have satisfied their Ontario secondary School Diploma (OSSD) graduation requirement.**

The OSSLT is being made available to students who are learning in person. Should a student who is learning remotely wish to participate in the test, the board may arrange for the student's participation in person. Schools should focus on ensuring that cohorts are maintained, that all necessary public health directives are followed and that school board health and safety measures continue to be employed.

EQAO is planning to administer the OSSLT at two points during the 2021-2022 school year. The first is between October 13 and December 1, with individual student results reported by the end of January 2022, and the second is between March 23 and May 18, with individual student results reported by the end of June 2022. Grades 10 and 11 students and non-graduating Grade 12 students who are studying in person are eligible to take the OSSLT. As the literacy graduation requirement for all students graduating during 2021-2022 school year has been waived, graduating students do not need to take the test.

Which Students are Defined as ELLs and Entitled to Special Provision and/or Accommodations?

English language learners are students in provincially funded English language schools whose first language is a language other than English, or is a variety of English that is significantly different from the variety used for instruction in Ontario's schools, and who may require focused educational supports to assist them in attaining proficiency in English.

ELL Policies and Procedures – K to Grade 12, Ontario Ministry of Education,
p. 7 (2007)

- All students who meet the Ministry of Education definition *above* are to be identified as ELLs in the EQAO Student Data Collection (SDC) system and are entitled to the special provisions for ELLs outlined by EQAO.
- All ELLs (as defined in Ministry Policy) who require special provisions are entitled to them, regardless of whether or not they are receiving direct language support through ESL or ELD courses.

Special Provisions for ELLs

English language learners can receive the following special provision:

- o Extended periodic supervised breaks

The OSSLT is a computer-based assessment that comprises two sessions (Session A and Session B) containing a total of 33 questions: 31 multiple-select questions (e.g., multiple choice, drag and drop, dropdown menu, checklist, text selection) and two constructed open-response questions. Each session is designed to be completed in 60 minutes, and students complete each session in one sitting. The sessions can be attempted one after the other, either back to back with a break in between or on two different dates and times.

If students require additional time to complete a session, extra time with supervision is allowed.

During the assessment, students can have access to the following:

- o Headphones for listening to questions
- o White noise or calming music as required
- o A supply of pens or pencils and paper for rough work

Support materials are available for all students once they log in to the online OSSLT. A set of accessibility tools is located in the student toolbar. These tools are available to every student taking the OSSLT:

- o A help menu
- o A text-speech function that reads the text on the screen out loud
- o Zoom in and zoom out capabilities
- o A line reader that helps students focus on one line of text at a time
- o A high-contrast view
- o Annotation tools
- o A tool for rough notes

All students will also have access to virtual breathing exercises, reminders of test taking strategies and other minds-on activities to help them as they take the modernized OSSLT.

Deferrals for ELLs

Decisions regarding deferrals must be made prior to the assessment, for each student individually, and in consultation with the student and parents or the adult student and with the appropriate teaching staff.

OSSLT

ELLs are encouraged to participate in large-scale assessments when they have acquired the level of proficiency in English required for success. (ELL Ministry Policy 2.9.1; 2.9.3)

EQAO states that a student working toward an OSSD will not participate in the test (deferral), because:

- he or she is an English language learner and has not yet acquired a level of proficiency in English sufficient to participate
- the student is new to the school and appropriate accommodations cannot be provided

PLEASE NOTE: This year, ELLs can go directly into the OSSLC without writing the OSSLT or being deferred.

Recommendations for ELL Participation in the OSSLT or registering into the OSSLC:

To facilitate the process of determining participation and special provision for ELLs, ERGO offers the following recommendations to teachers and principals. School boards may develop different participation recommendations. Decisions must be made on an individual basis and according to EQAO guidelines.

Students in ESL Courses:	Participation in OSSLT	Registering into OSSLC
Level 1 (ESLAO)	Deferral recommended	Not recommended
Level 2 (ESLBO)	Deferral recommended	Not recommended
Level 3 (ESLCO)	Consider for deferral; Provide special provisions as outlined by EQAO for participating students	May be considered; provide appropriate accommodations as needed
Levels 4 & 5 (ESLDO/EO)	Provide special provisions as outlined by EQAO, if required	Provide appropriate accommodations, if required
Students in ELD Courses:	Participation in OSSLT	Registering into OSSLC
Level 1, 2, 3 (ELDAO/BO/CO)	Deferral recommended	Not recommended

Level 4 (ELDDO)	Consider for deferral; Provide special provisions as outlined by EQAO for participating students	May be considered; Provide the appropriate accommodations as required.
Levels 5 (ELDEO)	Provide special provisions as outlined by EQAO, if required; provide accommodations in OSSLC if required.	Provide the appropriate accommodations as required
Students in Mainstream Courses:	Participation in OSSLT	Register into the OSSLC
ELLs not enrolled in ESL or ELD Courses	Provide special provisions as outlined by EQAO, if required	Provide the appropriate accommodations as required.

ELLs with Special Education Needs

ELLs who have special education needs and an IEP are entitled to accommodations as outlined in the online *OSSLT User Guide for Administering the OSSLT: Teachers – Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)* (vretta.com)

ELL Participation in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC)

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC) is a full-credit course that fulfils the Literacy requirement for graduation and can be counted as the compulsory English credit in either Grade 11 or Grade 12. This course may be offered in special sections for English language learners.
 ELL Policies and Procedures – K to Grade 12, Ontario Ministry of Education, p. 25 (2007)