



Office of the Director of Education

March 19, 2021

Dear TCDSB Families,

You may be aware that the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) is piloting a new Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) for students in Grades 10 and 11. School Boards have the option of participating this year.

After careful consideration, we are writing to inform you that the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) will not administer the optional OSSLT planned for the spring of 2021.

Since the start of the school year, we have been doing everything possible to ensure student safety and well-being. We recognize that the pandemic has presented varying challenges associated with mental health and anxiety among our students and school communities and we believe it is in the best interest of our students not to create further undue pressure as they work towards the completion of the school year.

We continue to focus on maximizing classroom instruction time as much as possible to promote student success and well-being. We also recognize that administering the optional test would create inequitable access given multiple learning streams of in-person, virtual and hybrid models for our secondary students.

For Grade 12 students expecting to graduate this year, the OSSLT graduation requirement has been waived.

This decision not to administer the optional OSSLT is consistent with a number of school boards in Ontario.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brendan Browne".

Dr. Brendan Browne
Director of Education