

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

All students who entered Grade 9 in the 2000 - 2001 school year, or in subsequent years, must successfully complete the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) in order to earn a secondary school diploma. Students will normally be administered the literacy test when they are in Grade 10. The test is based on Ontario curriculum expectations for language and communication, particularly reading and writing, up to and including Grade 9.

The test will identify areas for remediation for students who are unsuccessful in completing the test. Students who write the test but do not succeed must re-take the test and complete it successfully in order to qualify for a secondary school diploma. There is no limit to the number of times the test may be re-taken.

Accommodations

Students who are receiving special education programs and services and who have an Individual Education Plan may receive the accommodations that are set out in the students' IEP.

Deferrals

Only students who might benefit from a deferral of the test should be considered. This may include students who have been identified as exceptional and students registered in English as a second language/English literacy development courses who have not yet acquired the level of proficiency in English required for successfully completing the test. The Principal determines if a deferral should be granted and the time period for the deferral.

Exemptions

Students whose IEP indicates that the student is not working towards the attainment of a secondary school diploma may, with parental consent and approval of the Principal, be exempted from participating in the literacy test.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLT)

Students may also achieve the literacy requirement through the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course. Refer to the course description in the Grade 12 English section.

Requirements for the Ontario Secondary School Certificate

The Ontario Secondary School Certificate will be granted on request to students who leave school before earning the Ontario Secondary School Diploma, provided they have earned a minimum of 14 credits, distributed as follows:

Compulsory credits (total of 7)

- 2 credits in English
- 1 credit in Canadian geography or Canadian history
- 1 credit in mathematics
- 1 credit in science
- 1 credit in health and physical education
- 1 credit in the arts or technological education

Optional credits (total of 7)

- 7 credits selected by the student from available courses.

Certificate of Accomplishment

Students who leave school before fulfilling the requirements for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma or the Ontario Secondary School Certificate may be granted a Certificate of Accomplishment. This certificate may be a useful means of recognizing achievement for students who plan to take certain vocational programs or other kinds of further training. Students who return to school to complete additional credit and non-credit courses will have their transcript updated but will not be issued a new Certificate of Accomplishment.