

Education Quality and  
Accountability Office



Everything you  
need to know about

# EQAO

**Elementary Assessments**



**Ontario students write curriculum-based province-wide assessments that measure the reading, writing and math skills they are expected to have learned by the end of Grade 3 and Grade 6.**

At the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), we understand a healthy approach to student learning involves cognitive, emotional, social and physical development. The insights provided by these assessments empower parents, guardians and educators with the information needed to create lifelong success for students.

**The assessments are administered by EQAO, an independent agency of the Ministry of Education.**

**This brochure will help you understand the two EQAO assessments Ontario students write in elementary school and how the results can be used to evaluate and support learning.**

## What is on the EQAO assessments?

### In Grade 3

The primary-division assessment evaluates the reading, writing and math skills students are expected to have learned by the end of Grade 3.

### In Grade 6

The junior-division assessment evaluates the reading, writing and math skills students are expected to have learned by the end of Grade 6.

## Assessment format and focus:

There are four language sections and two math sections in the Grade 3 and Grade 6 assessments.

The assessments measure whether students

- understand what they read in different types of texts;
- express their thoughts clearly for others to understand and
- have acquired the appropriate math skills to solve problems.

## Do all students have to take the EQAO assessments?

The provincial assessments are part of Ontario's education program. All students who attend publicly funded schools and who follow *The Ontario Curriculum* are required to write them.

Students with special education needs are permitted some accommodations that are consistent with their regular classroom assessment practices. Special provisions may also be permitted for English language learners. If a student does not have the ability to participate in part or all of the assessment—even with accommodations—the principal may exempt him or her in consultation with the parents or guardians and educators.

## Why does Ontario conduct province-wide assessments?

Ontario conducts provincial assessments in order to

- inform the improvement of instructional programs and strategies to help all children learn and
- strengthen the accountability of the public education system.

## When do the assessments take place?

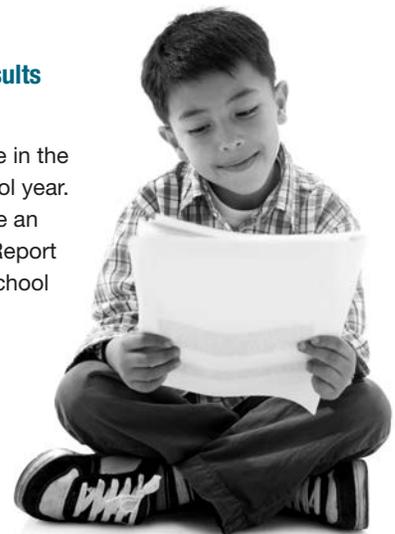
Assessments are written during a three- to six-day period, typically in late May and early June. Students are given approximately one hour to complete each section of the assessments. The exact dates and times of the assessments are determined by the school. The administration of these assessments should not interrupt recess or other break times for students.

## Do students have to study for the assessments?

Not at all. EQAO assessments are based on *The Ontario Curriculum* and do not require additional preparation (e.g., tutoring, extra books). Students who would like to do some additional preparation to become familiar with the format of the assessment, and the types of questions that can be asked, can find examples of assessment materials at [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com).

## When are EQAO results released?

Results are available in the fall of the next school year. Students will receive an Individual Student Report directly from their school to bring home.



## How are EQAO results reported?

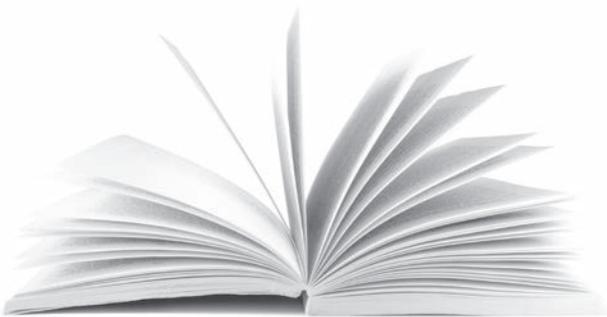
The results of EQAO's assessments in elementary school are reported according to the province's four achievement levels. These are the same levels teachers use in the classroom and on report cards to report student achievement. The provincial standard is Level 3, which corresponds to achievement in the B- to B+ range. Students meeting or exceeding the standard (i.e., achieving Level 3 or 4) on the assessments have demonstrated most or all of the reading, writing and math knowledge and skills expected at the current stage of their education.

## Why are EQAO assessment results important?

The results of EQAO assessments are important indicators of whether or not students are developing strong literacy and numeracy skills at key stages of their education. Research has shown that students who do not meet the provincial standard on EQAO assessments in elementary school are at higher risk of not being able to meet the standard in high school.

## How should EQAO assessment results be used?

EQAO assessment results should be reviewed alongside students' daily classroom work and other student-achievement-related assessment information to gauge student learning and determine where more support may be needed. For students who do not meet the provincial standard, it is particularly important for parents or guardians and educators to discuss how to work together to close learning gaps and improve student achievement.



## Additional guides are available online in the following languages:



- Arabic
- Chinese
- Farsi
- French
- Gujarati
- Hindi
- Italian
- Korean
- Ojibway
- Ojicree
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Punjabi
- Russian
- Spanish
- Tagalog
- Tamil
- Ukrainian
- Urdu
- Vietnamese

Visit [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com) for more information.



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