

The Education Quality Accountability Office (EQAO) is an agency of the provincial government. EQAO designs and supervises tests for all students in grades 3, 6, 9 and 10. All grades 3 and 6 students write this test over a period of six days in late May or early June.

1. Why are students tested?

The tests give parents, teachers, principals and school boards information about how well students have learned what the province expects them to learn in reading, writing and mathematics.

2. What do the results mean?

The report tells you if your child's skills are:

Level 1 - below the provincial standard

Level 2 - close to meeting the provincial standard

Level 3 - at the provincial standard

Level 4 - above the provincial standard

3. How are test results used?

Teachers and principals get a report that shows how students performed in reading, writing and mathematics. If many students did poorly on a particular skill, then teachers try to find better teaching strategies or resources to help students be more successful. If students in many schools have similar difficulties, then school boards know that all schools need to improve their teaching strategies or find better resources.

Parents receive their children's results in the fall. Results are sent to the school where the students wrote the test. The school is supposed to forward results to students who have left the school. If you move, send the school your new address if you want to get the results.

4. Do the results count on a child's report card?

No. The grades 3 and 6 tests do not count as part of a student's mark and do not affect their progress or future opportunities in school. However, students must pass the Grade 10 Literacy Test or Literacy course in order to graduate with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

5. Do ESL students write the tests?

Yes, although some ESL students may be exempt if they have recently arrived in Canada. Others may have "accommodations" such as more time to write the test, a quiet setting or having someone read instructions and questions. The principal must consult with parents about making accommodations or exempting a student from the test.

6. Do students with special needs write the tests?

All students are encouraged to write the test but some students with special needs may be exempt. These students usually have Individual Education Plans (IEPs) that outline "accommodations" or "supports" that help them succeed in school. The "accommodations" also help students write the EQAO tests. They may include more time to write, a quiet setting or having someone read instructions or questions to them.

The principal must consult with parents about making accommodations or exempting a student from the test.

7. How can I help my child prepare?

There is no special preparation for the tests. Some teachers provide sample questions to help students understand what the tests will be like. The best way to help your child is to make sure he or she is rested and at school on time.

8. How can I get more information?

See the EQAO website: www.eqao.com For information about exemptions and accommodations click on *Educator Resources* and select *Administration Guide*.