

# Understanding the provincial standard and the levels of achievement

The Education Quality and Accountability Office’s (EQAO’s) assessments measure the literacy and mathematics skills that students are expected to have learned at specific times in their kindergarten to Grade 12 education. The assessments are anchored to *The Ontario Curriculum*, and they are administered to students at key stages of their education journey.

<p><b>Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Primary Division</b> End of Grade 3 (Grades 1 to 3 curriculum)</p>	<p><b>Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Junior Division</b> End of Grade 6 (Grades 4 to 6 curriculum)</p>	<p><b>Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics</b> End of Grade 9 mathematics course (Grade 9 curriculum)</p>	<p><b>Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)</b> Grade 10 (literacy skills expected by the curriculum across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9)</p>
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## What the levels of achievement mean

EQAO reports student achievement results by level of achievement (Levels 1 to 4).<sup>\*</sup> The levels of achievement are determined by the Ministry of Education, which also sets the provincial standard at Level 3. Each level can be better understood if we think of it as similar to a letter grade or percentage range grade:

Level	Primary/Junior	Grade 9	Student has demonstrated the specified knowledge and skills
4	A	80%–100%	with a high degree of effectiveness on the assessment.
3	B	70%–79%	with considerable effectiveness on the assessment.
2	C	60%–69%	with some effectiveness on the assessment.
1	D	50%–59%	with limited effectiveness on the assessment. <sup>**</sup>

<sup>\*</sup> This is true for the Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Primary and Junior Divisions and for the Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics. Since successful completion of the OSSLT is a graduation requirement, students are assigned a “successful” or “not yet successful” outcome after they complete the assessment.

<sup>\*\*</sup> If a student’s results are reported as Below Level 1 (below 50%) or as Not Enough Evidence for Level 1, this means the student has not demonstrated sufficient specified knowledge and skills, or sufficient achievement of curriculum expectations, on the assessment.

### What the provincial standard means

The provincial standard (Level 3) is not used to determine whether a student “fails” or “passes”: the provincial standard is simply a target level of achievement established by the government. Students achieving Level 3 in the subject matter being assessed can be confident that they will be prepared for work in subsequent grades or courses in the subject.



### How levels of achievement are determined on EQAO assessments



The student’s level of achievement on the assessment is determined using industry-accepted statistical procedures that consider the student’s responses and the difficulty of each question.

For more details about assessments and evaluation, please visit

[EQAO website](#)

[Ministry of Education website](#)

