

November 16, 2020

Memorandum to: Chantal Bélisle, Deputy Registrar, Ontario College of Teachers

Nicole van Woudenberg, Chair of Council, Ontario College of Teachers

Laurie McNelles, Chief Operating Officer, Education Quality and Accountability Office

Dr. Cameron Montgomery, Chair, Education Quality and Accountability Office

Rebecca Luce-Kapler, Chair, Ontario Association of Deans of Education

Chandra Foote, Chair, Independent Ontario Deans of Education

From: Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister of Education

Subject: Mathematics Proficiency Test Update

I am writing to provide an update on the Mathematics Proficiency Test (MPT), which is a requirement for certification by the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT).

As a result of public health measures taken to stop the spread of COVID-19, implementation of the MPT was delayed and many teacher candidates were not able to meet this requirement.

As such, an amendment was made to Ontario Regulation 271/19 (Proficiency in Mathematics) under the *Ontario College of Teachers Act, 1996* to authorize the Registrar of the OCT to certify, with condition, individuals who complete their application on or after March 31, 2020. This condition stipulates that the applicant must successfully complete the MPT by August 31, 2021.

To help teacher applicants complete the MPT before the August 31, 2021 deadline, the ministry and the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) are exploring options to administer the test online with remotely proctored test sessions and ways to complete the test for those who require accommodation or who would not otherwise have access to technology. There will be three opportunities to write the test between January and August 2021. Specific times for testing will be announced in future communication.

The August 31, 2021 deadline does not apply to Internationally Educated Teachers. While they have two years from the date of their initial certification to pass the MPT, they will have access to it in 2021. A condition will appear on their teaching certificate until such time as they successfully complete the test.

Like the field test conducted in spring 2020, the 2021 test iterations will be considered part of a beta phase of the MPT administered online with remote live proctoring technology. Hence there will be no cost to those writing the test prior to August 31, 2021, including those who have been unsuccessful at past attempts. Starting September 2021, the first attempt to complete the MPT will be free and individuals will be required to pay a fee for subsequent or voluntary attempts. This fee will be determined by the test administrator.

On November 9, 2020 the ministry issued a Request for Bids to secure a vendor to administer/invigilate the MPT. Vendors will have until December 9, 2020 to submit their bids, and the ministry plans on announcing the successful vendor by January 2021. The procurement can be found by searching "Mathematics Proficiency Test" on the Ontario Tenders Portal available on <https://ontariotenders.app.jaggaer.com/esop/nac-host/public/web/login.html>.

To help teacher applicants prepare for the MPT, a practice test, blueprint and other resources are available on <https://mathproficiencytest.ca/> to assist with preparation.

The ministry recognizes that this is an unprecedented time for teacher candidates, faculties of education and the wider education sector. Faculties of education are asked to please share this information with teacher candidates as soon as possible.

Learn about how the government is supporting people, businesses and families during COVID-19 by visiting www.ontario.ca/coronavirus.

Your continued support and collaboration are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister