



Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
Fédération des enseignantes et des enseignants de l'élémentaire de l'Ontario
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ETFO's View on EQAO Testing

The Federation views province-wide testing of every student in the primary and junior divisions and grades 9 and 10 as both a misuse of student time, and an ineffective use of funds that should be redirected to support students' learning. The consistent trend within the media of ranking schools by assessment results has been unfair to students. It is ETFO's position that teachers' ongoing daily assessment is far more meaningful and efficient for students and parents. ETFO continues to lobby for random sample testing.

Background Information for Members

In Ontario, there is no formal way to withdraw students from EQAO. It is a mandated program according to the EQAO Act. Ontario's Education Quality and Accountability Act, 1996 states that all students in publicly funded schools are legally required to write the provincial tests unless formally exempted.

Parents may, however, choose to request that their child not participate in any part of the EQAO testing and that the school board provide alternative programming for their child during the EQAO testing period.

Dear Principal,

As a member of ETFO and a parent, I am requesting the withdrawal of my child from the EQAO testing. It is my expectation that during the administration of the EQAO tests alternative programming will be provided for my child's learning at the school.

Please excuse my child, _____, from all components of the EQAO tests and provide appropriate programming for her/him throughout the administration of the test.

Thank you for your co-operation and for respecting my request.

Sincerely,

Parent/guardian signature