

June 21, 2023

Memorandum to: Directors of Education
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

From: Yael Ginsler
Assistant Deputy Minister
Student Achievement Division

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Subject: Issuance of revised *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8, Language, 2023* and *Le curriculum de l'Ontario, de la 1re à la 8e année, Français, 2023* curriculum and new *English, Grade 9 (ENL1W)* and *Français, 9e année (FRL1W)* courses

As part of the Ministry of Education's commitment to ensure Ontario students build stronger literacy skills, and in response to the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Right to Read report recommendations, the Minister of Education has issued new elementary Language and Français curriculum: *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8, Language, 2023* and *Le curriculum de l'Ontario, de la 1re à la 8e année, Français, 2023*, as well as new de-streamed Grade 9 English (ENL1W) and Français (FRL1W) courses.

The new curriculum and courses are aligned with scientific, evidence-based approaches that emphasize direct, explicit and systematic instruction, and will be implemented in Ontario classrooms starting in September 2023. They are designed to support students in developing the language and literacy knowledge and skills they need to succeed in education and in life, and to encourage students to experience the joy and possibility that literacy learning can ignite.

These new curriculum and courses include new areas of learning, including:

A focus on foundational knowledge and skills

- Students will develop foundational knowledge and skills in reading and writing, spelling, vocabulary, reading fluency and comprehension across all grades.
- Reading is taught using evidence-based methods to help students become capable readers and writers.

- For the youngest learners, knowledge and skills are taught in the areas of oral language and vocabulary, the relationship between sounds and letters of the alphabet, and the ability to read and write words with both speed and accuracy.

Transferable skills

- Students will apply the transferable skills throughout learning in language and literacy across all grades to help them become engaged and responsible learners.

Digital media literacy

- Students will develop and apply digital media literacy knowledge and skills to support their learning, such as understanding how online media is used to communicate and influence audiences.
- They will learn to navigate online environments while managing their data, security and privacy.
- Students also learn how to use digital and media tools to evaluate information and demonstrate their learning.

Applications, connections and contributions

- Students will apply language and literacy skills in various contexts, and make connections to the contributions of diverse voices, experiences and perspectives, including those of First Nations, Métis and Inuit individuals, communities, groups and nations.

The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8, Language, 2023 and *Le curriculum de l'Ontario, de la 1re à la 8e année, Français, 2023* are available to all parents, teachers and students on the [Curriculum and Resources](#) website. This curriculum replaces *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1–8: Language, 2006* and *Le curriculum de l'Ontario, de la 1re à la 8e année, 2006*.

The *English, Grade 9 (ENL1W)* and *Français, 9e année (FRL1W)* courses replace the *English, Grade 9, Academic (ENG1D)* and the *Français 9e année (FRA1D)*. As of September 2023, ENG1D and ENG1P should no longer be offered and the course codes will expire at the end of the 2022-23 school year. Please note that all other courses in *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 10-12: English, 2007* and *Le curriculum de l'Ontario: Français 10e à 12e année, 2007* remain in effect.

The ministry is also revising assessment and reporting for the new elementary Language and Français curriculum. As with the recently revised elementary Mathematics curriculum, the ministry is moving to reporting one mark for Language and Français, instead of providing a separate mark for each strand. The provincial report card templates will also be updated for the 2023-24 school year to align with the new curriculum. Samples of the revised report card templates will be posted shortly. We

encourage school boards to ensure that your report card vendor is aware of the new templates for the upcoming school year.

Implementation Supports

The ministry is committed to supporting educators through training and resources, including webinars and classroom-ready resources. A key changes document and parent guide, which outline new learning in the curriculum, are available on the Curriculum and Resources website. Educators will also have access to professional learning opportunities, including ministry hosted webinars, which will be made available on the Curriculum and Resources website as they become available.

In addition, the ministry will also be partnering with education stakeholders to provide resources and training opportunities for classroom educators and principals focusing on key aspects of the revised curricula, including scientific, evidence-based reading instruction, to support planning and implementation. This includes, partnering with the Principals Councils to host webinars, and develop professional learning modules and resources to support implementation.

For September 2023, the ministry is also partnering with Dyslexia Canada and International Dyslexia Association – Ontario, experts in evidence-based systematic and explicit reading instruction, to provide resources and professional learning supports. These resources will support the upcoming mandatory Professional Activity days devoted to Literacy and Mathematics and Curriculum Implementation, as well as supporting ongoing professional learning throughout the school year. More information will become available when these resources launch later this summer.

Accessing curriculum and resources

All curriculum and supporting ministry-developed resources are available on the Curriculum and Resources website.

An introductory webinar will be held on June 27, 2023 to provide educators with an overview of the revised curriculum. To register for the introductory webinar, please visit this [link](#).

Thank you for your ongoing support and leadership in ensuring that all Ontario students are equipped with the literacy and language skills and knowledge that they need to succeed in the classroom, in the workforce and in life.

Sincerely,

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Assistant Deputy Minister

Denys Giguère
Assistant Deputy Minister

cc: Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)
Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
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