

Important Information 20-21 Graduates - Revised

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) [Revised]

On Friday October 30th the Ministry provided updated guidance on standardized testing for the 2020-2021 school year. The following direction has been provided for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT).

- The literacy graduation requirement will be waived for all students graduating during the 2020-2021 school year.
- Non-graduating students may have an opportunity to write the online OSSLT in Spring 2021 and have successful attempts counted on their transcript.

Community Involvement Graduation Requirement

For students graduating in the 2020-21 school year, the community involvement graduation requirement will be reduced to a minimum of **20 hours** of community involvement activities. This recognizes that graduating students have had barriers to earning their community involvement hours last school year and there may be continued barriers this school year.

In addition, the ministry is providing increased flexibility in how all secondary students can earn hours in 2020-21, as follows:

1. At the principal's discretion, schools may waive the restrictions that do not allow students to earn hours during the time allotted for the instructional program on a school day, or duties normally performed in the home (e.g., walking a younger child to and from school, helping younger siblings with school work).
2. Students aged 14 years and older can count up to a maximum of 10 hours from paid employment towards their earned hours at the discretion of the principal. Students counting paid employment towards their graduation requirement will be required to complete a reflection exercise indicating how their work contributed to the service for others.

Students should continue to seek out and accumulate community involvement hours in accordance with school board policies and procedures, keeping in mind local public health unit recommendations. Students may wish to consider virtual volunteering, such as connecting with seniors, organizing virtual fundraising events and facilitating discussions with newcomer youth. Outdoor volunteer opportunities could include, for example, picking up litter.

University and College Application Processes

At the start of every school year, data is transmitted from the school board to the Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC) and Ontario Colleges Application Services (OCAS) that indicates potential graduate status and currently enrolled courses. This data is used when a student creates an application with either of the two services.

In a normal year, few potential graduates transition between schools. However, with COVID and the creation of the Virtual Learning High School, some grade 12 students are transitioning back and forth during the approved times. It is important to take note that transitioning between schools during the school year can create data inconsistencies and course changes that may affect post-secondary applications.

The LKDSB will be uploading new demographic and course data to OUAC and OCAS at the necessary dates in our attempt to ensure no data inconsistencies occur. OCAS and OUAC have adjusted their schedule data transmission dates to accommodate the various scheduling models province-wide. However, it will be the responsibility of any potential graduates, especially those who change secondary schools, to monitor the information in their post-secondary applications for OUAC or OCAS by checking their applications online.

OUAC Statement

Most universities will make conditional offers of admission on a rolling basis using a combination of Grade 11 and available Grade 12 marks. This type of assessment depends on students being registered in all required Grade 12 courses. Therefore, for university-bound students, it is essential that boards send OUAC all currently registered and projected course enrollments for the entire school year.

OCAS Statement

Colleges make conditional offers of admission using final Grade 11 marks, as well as the Grade 12 enrollment data received in the fall. Regardless of the semester model, it is important that schools provide projected course enrollments for the entire school year for graduating Grade 12 students no later than November 20, 2020

Board Response to OUAC/OCAS Requirements

When LKDSB students change schools, they will be fully assigned for the full school year, not just one quad at a time in order to ensure that OUAC/OCAS receives the projected courses for the school year. New uploads of data will occur at the start of each quadmester in an attempt to correct any data inaccuracies.

Student/Parent/Guardian Responsibility

Please understand, as changes are made to a student's schedule, the data held by OUAC/OCAS is not accurate and depending on the individual universities' decision, applications may be affected if the student is missing key program requirements. Please ensure that you are aware of the program requirements you are applying for and ensure that changes between schools will not negatively impact your program. It is beyond the ability of the school or board to guarantee the same schedules at different schools.