



# Westdale Secondary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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October 23, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians:

On November 12<sup>th</sup> and November 14<sup>th</sup>, starting at 8:00 am, Grade 10 students enrolled in ENG2L/ENG2P/ENG2D (English) at Westdale will write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). The OSSLT is administered by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), an independent agency of the Government of Ontario, in order to determine whether students have acquired the minimum literacy (reading and writing) skills expected in the Ontario Curriculum across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9.

The OSSLT will be completed online and there are a total of 37 questions: 35 selected response questions (e.g. single-selection, multiple-selection, drag and drop, drop-down menu, checklist) and two open-response questions. The test is administered on two separate days (November 12<sup>th</sup> and November 14<sup>th</sup>) and students need to be in attendance on both days. All of the questions are based directly on the expectations set out in *The Ontario Curriculum*, which is what teachers teach in the classroom every day. Students can prepare as they would for any other secondary school test.

In January 2025, EQAO will send our school a report of results for each student who writes the OSSLT. In the past, we have had students pick up their results to carry home. The results are private and will give you an indication of how well your student is mastering the required literacy skills, which are the foundation for success in all subjects and in life pursuits beyond school. The OSSLT is a minimum-competency test. Achievement is therefore reported as "successful" or "unsuccessful."

OSSLT results do not count toward students' grades, but successful completion of the test is a requirement for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. There are supports for students who do not pass, including an opportunity to rewrite the test or to take the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OLC4O).

You can use your child's results on the OSSLT to understand their strengths and areas for improvement, and to monitor and celebrate their progress. The results can also help you in discussions with teachers. As a school community, we use these results, along with other information, to guide our school improvement initiatives. This benefits not only your student but all the students in our school. The results are also used by our school board and the Ministry of Education to direct attention and resources where they are needed.

For more information about EQAO and to view a sample of its assessments to help students prepare for the test, visit [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com).

Sincerely,

Mr. B. Goodram  
Principal

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