

CES Policy on identification of students who are best served by deferral of the OSSLT *(last modified 2019-09-19)*

The CES Principal, known as the Principal in this Policy, shall make decisions regarding deferrals.

Deferrals are intended for students who have not yet acquired a level of proficiency in English to successfully complete the Literacy Test. This may include students who have been identified as exceptional, or students who have been unsuccessful in achieving the reading and writing skills appropriate for grade 9. Deferrals may also be granted for students who are unable to write the test during the scheduled administration due to illness, injury or other extenuating circumstances. The Principal will determine if a deferral should be granted. Deferred students are expected to write the OSSLT during the next administration of the test.

Deferral of the OSSLT for English Language Learners

The ELL student is working towards an OSSD and will not participate in the current administration of the OSSLT for one of the following reasons:

- Has not yet acquired a level of proficiency in English as demonstrated by poor performance (Level 1 or 2) in ESLDO, ENG1D, iBT (<59), IELTS (<5.0).
- The student has not yet acquired the reading and writing skills appropriate for grade 9
- The student has a temporary condition or is new to the school or province and appropriate accommodations cannot be provided

Decision Making

- On or about February 1 each year, prior to the administration of the OSSLT the Principal shall review all ELL students eligible to write the OSSLT individually. In consultation with the student and parent(s) or the adult student, and with the appropriate teaching staff. The Principal shall make the decision regarding deferral and inform the ELL student and parent(s) or the adult student.
- If the adult student or the parents disagree with the Principal's decision, they may appeal to the appropriate supervisory officer for a final decision.
- The parent(s) or adult student may make a written request for deferral addressed to the Principal, or the Principal may suggest a deferral in consultation with the parent(s) or adult student. Such a request must be made no later than February 15th of the year of the current administration of the OSSLT

The decision on a deferral must be made

- prior to the test and no later than March 1 of the year of the current administration of the OSSLT
- for each student individually
- in consultation with the student and parent(s) or the adult student, and with the appropriate teaching staff

Limitations & Diploma Requirement

- Participation may be deferred only to the next administration of the test. If a deferral is required again, there must be a new request, and the decision-making process must begin again. There is no limit to the number of deferrals a student may receive, but the student will be advised that a deferral will result in fewer opportunities to take the test and that passing either the OSSLT or the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC) is a diploma requirement.
- Students must be informed of the following: In June 2004, policy was changed to grant principals the discretion to allow a student to enroll in the OSSLC before he or she has had a second opportunity to take the OSSLT, if the principal determines that it is in the best educational interests of the student (see PPM 127).

Required Documentation

All documentation related to the decision to grant a deferral will be kept in the student's OSR.