



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education

Date: March 27, 2023

Subject: **Correspondence from the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO)**

Please see the attached correspondence that was received from the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) on March 3, 2023.

TB/eb
Attach.

March 3, 2023

Monique Forster, Chair of the Board
Durham Catholic District School Board
650 Rossland Road West
Oshawa ON L1J 7C4

Dear Chair Forster,

Thank you for taking the time to connect with me and share your concerns. As always, EQAO is committed to working in partnership with the education community to provide useful and reliable data that contribute to supporting Ontario students.

EQAO has been on the path to modernize its assessment program and the agency has recently digitalized its large-scale assessments. Each step of EQAO's modernization initiative has been informed by feedback from Ontario educators and other experts to improve students' assessment experience and increase schools' administration flexibility. Last year, a new online mode of delivery and new assessment testing models (that is, multi-stage computer adaptive and testlet-based linear on the fly testing) were implemented. These changes and other considerations related to providing increased flexibility mean that EQAO will not be providing the same reports that schools have received in the past.

To support educators better in analyzing EQAO assessment data and as part of its modernization, the agency launched the interactive and user-friendly EQAO Data Reporting Tool that presents information about students' achievement, perceptions and attitudes collected through EQAO assessments. This tool, available to boards and schools, also offers the ability to generate and download various customized reports designed to assist you in your school's journey to support student learning and improvement.

As you mention in your letter, EQAO used to provide educators with Item Information Reports (IIRs) and I understand it might have come as a surprise not to be able to rely on these reports to further support your students. While providing IIRs is no longer possible due to the new assessment format and its digital mode of delivery, the agency is working towards generating reports around strands and categories of knowledge and skills, which will provide information at the school, school board and provincial levels.

I would be happy to discuss this matter further with yourself and your fellow board members as we aim to support our education community stakeholders with information that promotes positive student outcomes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'D. Koenig'.

Dan Koenig
Chief Executive Officer