



# Additional Qualification Course Guideline Senior Division Family Studies

Schedule A – Teachers' Qualifications Regulation

February 2026



Cette publication est également disponible en français sous le titre de *Études familiales, au cycle supérieur*.

## **Table of Contents**

<b>Preface</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
Accreditation – Program of Additional Qualification	3
Overview: Additional Qualification Course Guideline Design	4
Additional Qualification Course Guideline Foundations	5
<b>Senior Division Family Studies</b>	<b>6</b>
Additional Basic Qualification (ABQ) – Schedule A (Single Session)	6
Additional Qualification Course Requirements	6
Ontario’s Learning Context	7
Professional Learning	8
First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Histories, Cultures, Perspectives and Knowledge Systems in Education	10
Anti-Oppression Foundation	10
Learner-Centred Pedagogy	12
Teaching, Assessing and Evaluating	13
Resources	16

## Preface

Placing each student's interests and well-being first is at the core of teaching in Ontario.

The Ontario College of Teachers (the College) is the self-regulating body for the teaching profession in Ontario and is responsible for:

- establishing and enforcing professional standards and ethical standards applicable to members of the College
- providing for the ongoing education of members of the College
- accrediting Additional Qualification (AQ) courses.

The College supports teaching excellence by preparing educators to work in varied and diverse educational contexts and geographical settings:

- English language public school
- French language public school
- English language Catholic school
- French language Catholic school
- First Nations school
- Provincial and Demonstration school
- Private school
- Independent school
- Urban setting
- Rural setting
- Remote setting

Additional Qualification (AQ) course guidelines are designed following extensive consultation and feedback from course providers, course writers and members of the teaching profession.

AQ course guidelines serve as the framework for providers and instructors to develop courses.

In this document, all references to candidates are to educators enrolled in the AQ course. References to learners indicate those enrolled in school programs.

## Introduction

The purpose of this AQ is to support educators in the development of knowledge, skills and practices related to the teaching of Family Studies. This AQ will enable educators to develop an understanding of theoretical perspectives and practical research in Family Studies to design courses inclusive of diverse voices.

Educators will learn to incorporate culturally relevant pedagogical approaches and resources that encourage learners to develop practical skills, including critical and creative thinking skills, that enhance individual, family, and community well-being and contribute to lifelong learning.

This AQ course guideline provides a framework upon which to develop courses that meet accreditation requirements established in O. Reg. 347/02: *Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs*.

### **Accreditation – Program of Additional Qualification**

Accreditation requirements for AQ courses are articulated in O. Reg. 347/02: *Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs*, s. 24.

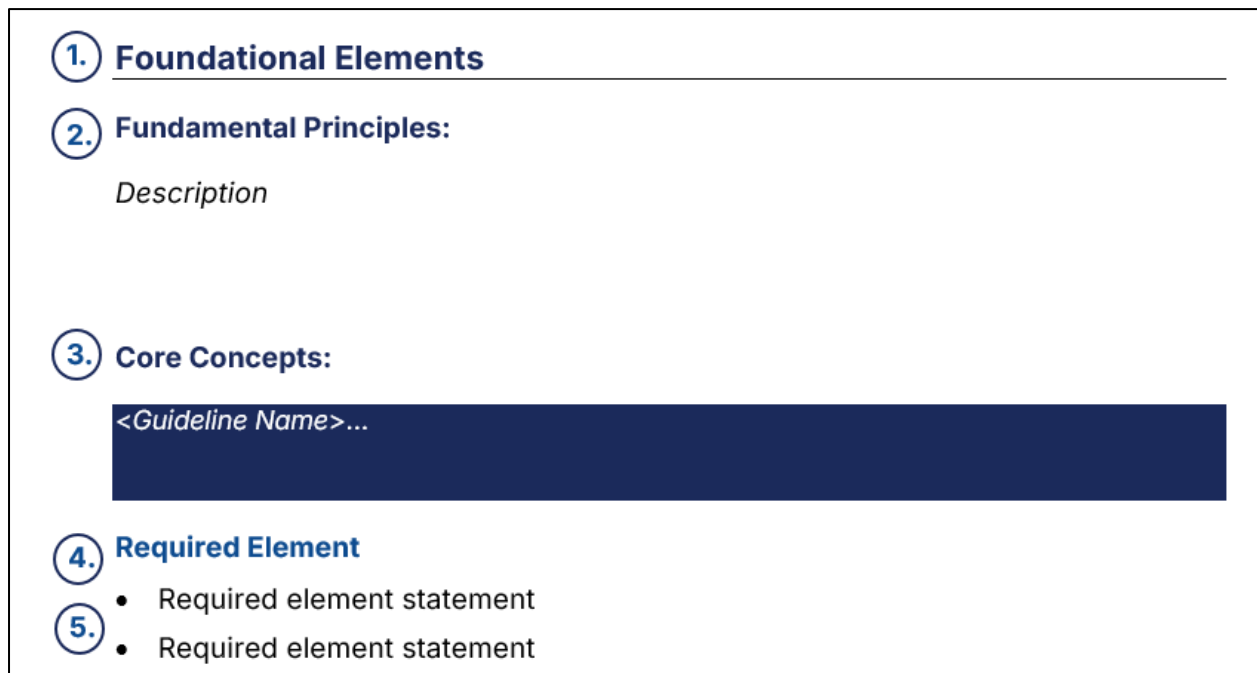
*A program of additional qualification may be granted accreditation under this Regulation if the following requirements are satisfied:*

1. The program content and expected achievement of persons enrolled in the program match the skills and knowledge reflected in the College's "Standards of Practice for the Teaching Profession" and the "Ethical Standards for the Teaching Profession" and in the program guidelines issued by the College.
2. The program satisfies the requirements of the teachers' qualifications regulation for entry of an additional qualification on the general certificate of qualification and registration of a person who successfully completes the program.
3. The program curriculum is current, references the Ontario curriculum, relevant legislation and government policies and represents a wide knowledge base in the program's area of study.
4. The course content of the program makes appropriate provision for the application of theory in practice.
5. The program's format and structure are appropriate for the course content of the program.
- 5.1 The program consists of a minimum of 125 hours of work acceptable to the Registrar.
6. There is clear identification of the goals of the program, with a formal testing or assessment mechanism to determine the level of successful completion of the program.
7. The majority of the educators teaching the program have Ontario teaching experience relevant to the program.
8. The provider maintains adequate internal controls to preserve the integrity of student records relating to the program.
9. The provider is committed to continuous improvement and quality assurance of the program and, if the program is an existing program, has implemented measures demonstrating that commitment.  
O. Reg. 347/02, s. 24; 2009, c. 33, Sched. 13, s. 3 (2); O. Reg. 182/10, s. 8.

## Overview: Additional Qualification Course Guideline Design

The following section of AQ course guidelines are organized using the structure and content described below (Figure 1):

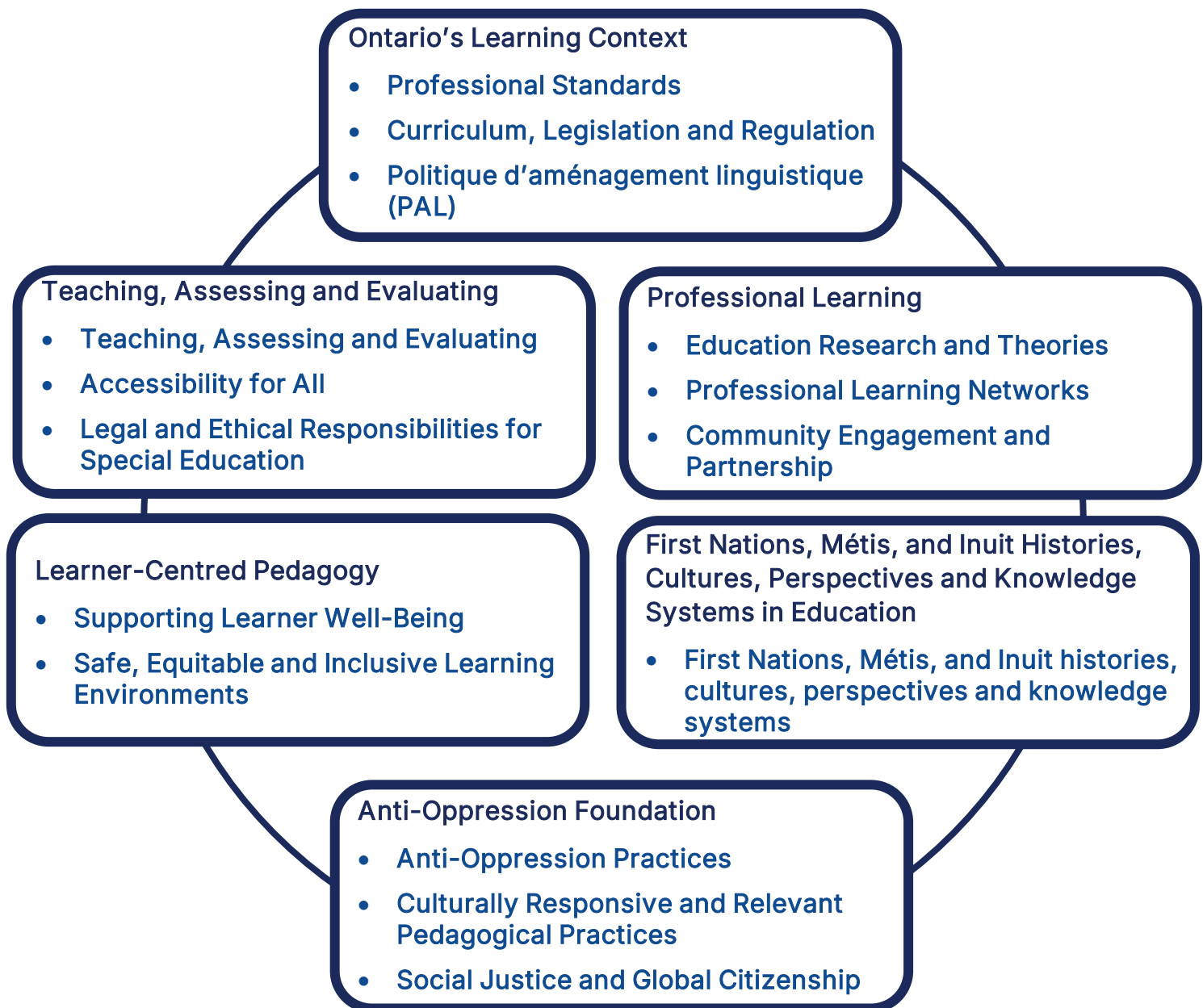
1. **Foundational elements** – six overarching distinct but interconnected elements grounding AQ course guidelines
2. **Fundamental principles** – accreditation requirements that are infused throughout the content of the AQ course and serve to inform providers and instructors of the conceptual framework from which to design AQ courses
3. **Core concepts** – candidates' professional experience and learning needs in relation to the required elements of the AQ course
4. **Required elements** – subject and/or division specific knowledge, skills, practices and values that AQ course providers must infuse throughout the content of the AQ course
5. **Required element statements** – description of the professional knowledge, skills, practices and values related to the required element.



## Additional Qualification Course Guideline Foundations

AQ course guidelines are grounded in **six foundational elements**, which are distinct but interconnected.

There are 15 required elements in English-language AQ course guidelines and 16 required elements in French-language AQ course guidelines:



## Senior Division Family Studies

### Additional Basic Qualification (ABQ) – Schedule A (Single Session)

This schedule A course allows educators to gain knowledge and skills in the design and implementation of concepts specific to Family studies in the senior division.

### Additional Qualification Course Requirements

The AQ course *Senior Division Family Studies* enables candidates to advance their professional practice through focussed learning in the following areas:

- Curriculum Knowledge
- Pedagogical Strategies
- The Learning Environment.

This AQ course is designed and delivered using adult learning instructional practices.

The AQ Course *Intermediate Division Family Studies* reflects **adult learning theories and processes** that foster critical reflection, dialogue and inquiry. Instructors provide candidates with professional learning experiences related to teaching, learning and assessment of learners.

Within the context of the senior division, this AQ course will enable educators to enhance pedagogical practice related to Family studies in support of the adolescent learner

The purpose of this AQ is to support educators in the development of knowledge, skills and practices related to the teaching of Family Studies. This AQ will enable educators to develop an understanding of theoretical perspectives and practical research in Family Studies to design courses inclusive of diverse voices. Educators will learn to incorporate culturally relevant pedagogical approaches and resources that encourage learners to develop practical skills, including critical and creative thinking skills, that enhance individual, family, and community well-being and contribute to lifelong learning.

## Ontario's Learning Context

---

### Fundamental Principles:

Education in Ontario is complex and dynamic with learning communities that reflect the province's diversity. As the teaching profession continually evolves to meet the ever-changing needs of learners, educators are called upon to follow foundational principles that inform instructional practice.

Professional standards, the Ontario curriculum, and related legislation and regulation, including the *Ontario Human Rights Code*, the *Education Act* and *Aménagement Linguistique Policy* (for French-Language schools) serve as the foundation for equitable, inclusive and accessible education.

Through ongoing professional learning, educators deepen their understanding of these principles, thereby advancing their professional practice to support each student's learning and well-being.

### Core Concepts:

*Senior Division Family Studies* develops and applies candidates' subject-specific professional practice, knowledge and skills through explicit instruction, reflections, guiding questions or resources in the following required elements:

### Professional Standards

- significance of the Ethical Standards, Standards of Practice and Professional Advisories as theoretical foundations within the AQ Course *Family Studies*
- ethical professional identity, knowledge, leadership, advocacy and collective practices to inform program planning.

### Ontario curriculum and related Legislation and Regulation

- current Ontario curriculum, policies, frameworks, strategies and resources related to *Family Studies*
- relevant legislation and policies at the municipal, provincial, federal and international levels that support human rights and privacy for all (for example, *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, *Canadian Human Rights Act*, *Ontario Human Rights Code*, *Anti-Racism Act*, 2017, S.O. 2017, c. 15 and *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*)
- candidates' legal obligations and ethical responsibilities according to current provincial legislation, policies and practices
- integration of research and inquiry skills in family studies programming.

## Professional Learning

---

### Fundamental Principles:

Professional learning is an integral part of the teaching profession and is essential for fostering continuous growth and improving outcomes for Ontario learners.

Throughout their career, educators continue to engage in ongoing professional learning informed by educational research and theories, including sessions offered by school boards or community partners, professional reading and AQ courses.

AQ courses serve as a key tool for enhancing professional practice by preparing educators for specific roles within the educational community. As part of their professional learning, educators are called upon to participate and lead in Professional Learning Networks and Community Engagement and Partnership opportunities that foster knowledge sharing, collaboration, and innovation to respond to diverse learner needs and create inclusive learning environments.

### Core Concepts:

*Senior Division Family Studies* develops and applies candidates' subject-specific professional practice, knowledge and skills through explicit instruction, reflections, guiding questions or resources in the following required elements:

### Educational Research and Theories

- current research and contributions representative of diverse voices and cultures associated with professional practices, policies and pedagogies related to *Family Studies*
- research and theories on emerging trends that reflects society's diverse changing nature and influence on learning and well-being (for example, understanding the impact of social media on learners, trauma-informed pedagogical practices and mental health resources)
- theoretical foundation for the design, assessment and implementation of programs and practices in support of learning
- application of theories of development and identity formation that support learner well-being, efficacy and agency.

## Professional Learning Networks

- professional learning communities that promote critical pedagogy, educator wellness and collective efficacy
- research and leadership to advance professional practice through ongoing collaborative inquiry, dialogue and innovation
- internal and external collaboration and supports to enhance professional practices in family studies, including cross-curricular teams, Board leads, mentors, formal and informal professional networks (for example, sharing resources on social media)
- engagement with community organizations and subject-associations to access resources that inform pedagogy (for example, Ontario Family Studies Home Economics Educators' Association [OFSHEEA], Canadian Home Economics Foundation [CHEF], Ontario Home Economics Association [OHEA], Dietitians of Canada).

## Community Engagement and Partnerships

- culturally responsive strategies to engage with learners, families, caregivers, guardians, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Knowledge Guardians, agencies and the school community including:
  - processes and practices to foster communication and collaboration to support learning
  - partnerships that value shared decision-making, confidentiality, advocacy and leadership
  - empowerment to navigate the education system and support learning and well-being
- strategies to build community partnerships that promote reciprocal learning experiences
- strategies to create real-life learning opportunities with community partners that align with Family Studies curriculum (for example, hospitals, restaurants, community kitchens, daycares)
- processes that provide access to community supports to inform and advocate for learners and families educational and personal needs (for example, settlement services)
- inter-school partnerships to build cross-curricular capacity for supporting learners and educators with sensitive topics related to *Family Studies*.

## First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Histories, Cultures, Perspectives and Knowledge Systems in Education

---

### Fundamental Principles:

Ontario's educators are responsible to uphold the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action* and align their professional practice with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP). They engage in authentic reconciliatory action by learning from and valuing First Nations, Métis, and Inuit histories, cultures, perspectives and knowledge systems, in teaching and learning. Educators, as treaty partners, acknowledge that learning about, and upholding treaty responsibilities will guide them on the reconciliation journey.

### Core Concepts:

*Senior Division Family Studies* develops and applies candidates' subject-specific professional practice, knowledge and skills through explicit instruction, reflections, guiding questions or resources in the following required elements:

### First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Histories, Cultures, Perspectives and Knowledge Systems

- meaningful inclusion of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit histories, cultures, perspectives and knowledge systems in teaching and learning processes
- knowledge of the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action* (TRC)
- awareness of *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP).

## Anti-Oppression Foundation

---

### Fundamental Principles:

An anti-oppression foundation acknowledges that systemic manifestations of power and privilege have led to multiple forms of oppression, injustices, inequities and inequalities. It is an approach that ensures equity and human rights are foundational to all AQ courses and programs.

Educators have a shared ethical and professional responsibility to identify and challenge individual and systemic barriers, including the impact of biases and assumptions related to power and privilege. Ongoing teacher education must recognize and address historical contexts that have contributed to various forms of oppression.

Through culturally responsive and relevant pedagogical practices, educators provide learning opportunities that respect diversity, foster learner well-being, and promote social justice and global citizenship.

### **Core Concepts:**

*Senior Division Family Studies* develops and applies candidates' subject-specific professional practice, knowledge and skills through explicit instruction, reflections, guiding questions or resources in the following required elements:

#### **Anti-Oppression Practices**

- theories and pedagogies about multiple forms of oppression applied to the design, assessment and implementation of programs and practices
- addressing individual and systemic biases, discrimination and barriers as well as manifestations of power and privilege, including gender and cultural norms in education and social structures (for example, parenting practices, food and clothing choices)
- addressing disproportionate representation of learners from equity seeking groups within specialized programs, including strategies to disrupt stereotypes within family studies.

#### **Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogical Practices**

- culturally responsive and relevant practices that reflect understanding of learners' identities and intersectionalities, including the impact of location on cultural identity development
- strategies for exploring the difference between cultural appropriation and cultural appreciation
- culturally inclusive processes, practices and resources to provide learning opportunities that respect the learning styles, voices and perspectives of each learner (for example, guest speakers, community collaboration opportunities).

#### **Social Justice and Global Citizenship**

- processes and practices that foster learners' voice and choice, respect diversity and promote social and ecological justice (for example, inquiry-based activities, co-creating classroom norms, school initiatives and community service)
- strategies for consensus-building, participatory democracy and empowerment within schools and the community (for example, interdisciplinary and cross-departmental connections, eco-teams and experiential learning opportunities)

- processes that engage learners as active global citizens in supporting environmental and economic sustainability (for example, United Nations [UN] sustainable development goals and fair-trade policies)
- critical thinking skills to explore social, political and economic justice (for example financial literacy, financial benefits programs for families and parental leaves)
- processes and practices that foster learner advocacy, allyship and activism (for example, sovereignty, rights of children).

## **Learner-Centred Pedagogy**

---

### **Fundamental Principles:**

Learner-centred pedagogy prioritizes learner engagement, well-being and success. Educators support student learning and well-being by encouraging learner voice, choice, and collaboration with families, caregivers, guardians, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Knowledge Guardians and community partners. Educators create safe, equitable, and inclusive learning environments that value diverse identities, experiences, and learning needs to ensure that all learners are empowered to reach their learning goals.

### **Core Concepts:**

*Senior Division Family Studies* develops and applies candidates' subject-specific professional practice, knowledge and skills through explicit instruction, reflections, guiding questions or resources in the following required elements:

### **Supporting Learner Well-Being**

- policies, processes and practices to support learners' positive sense of self, spirit and belonging through cognitive, emotional, social and physical development
- strategies that respond to the strengths, identities, needs and interests of each learner
- programs that respond to learners' lived experiences, linguistic abilities, mental health and well-being
- practices to understand learner's curiosities and experiences to engage and empower them to reach their learning goals
- intentional selection and design of learning experiences in family studies that allow learners to have multiple entry points along the continuum of learning
- strategies and resources to acknowledge, infuse and support learner social-emotional well-being, including addressing sensitive and challenging topics such as diet culture and gender-based violence.

## **Safe, Equitable and Inclusive Learning Environments**

- policies and processes to create and maintain inclusive learning environments that:
  - respect diversity
  - encourage critical thinking
  - foster learner agency and perspectives
- strategies to foster inclusive learning environments (for example, physical and virtual design and layout of the classroom, gender neutral language and resources in various formats)
- practices that support safe and healthy learning environments for learners as well as families, caregivers, guardians, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Knowledge Guardians
- ethical use of technology in support of learners' safety, privacy and well-being (for example, appropriate use of emerging technologies)
- program planning with financial supports and resources to create inclusive and equitable participatory learning experiences (for example, use of infant simulators, adapting food and clothing labs)
- policies, procedures and skills to ensure safe practices in the use of equipment, tools, materials and technology during hands-on learning opportunities.

## **Teaching, Assessing and Evaluating**

---

### **Fundamental Principles:**

Educators believe that each student can learn. Through evidence-based teaching and learning practices that are learner-centred, educators provide programs and services that offer equitable, inclusive and accessible opportunities for all. Educators use instructional strategies and assessment practices that respect the identities of each learner and support their cognitive, social, emotional, spiritual and physical development.

Accessibility, inclusion and equity are fundamental to everyday practice for teaching and learning. Informed by the *Ontario Human Rights Code, Accessibility of Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*, and the *Education Act*, educators advocate for each learner to access and benefit from services and resources within the education system, understanding the unique needs presented by geographical and socioeconomic contexts.

As educators are responsible for instruction, assessment and evaluation of all learners, they provide accommodations, modifications, or alternative programming outlined in the Individual Education Plan (IEP), which must be developed by an interdisciplinary team to reflect the learner's strengths, needs, and abilities, according to Reg. 181/98.

Each learner has their own unique profile and goals. As such, educators design opportunities that support their transition, education, and life and career planning.

### **Core Concepts:**

*Senior Division Family Studies* develops and applies candidates' subject-specific professional practice, knowledge and skills through explicit instruction, reflections, guiding questions or resources in the following required elements:

### **Teaching, Assessing and Evaluating**

- program design and implementation aligned with the Ontario curriculum that foster transferable skills to support lifelong learning (for example, critical thinking, collaboration and innovation)
- instructional strategies and approaches (for example, differentiated instruction, universal learning design, metacognition, experiential learning, outdoor learning and inquiry-based learning)
- assessment and evaluation processes and practices to:
  - provide feedback to learners and adjust instruction (assessment *for* learning)
  - develop learners' capacity to be independent, autonomous learners (assessment *as* learning)
  - make informed professional judgments about the quality of learning (assessment *of* learning)
- integration of information and communication technology to support and enhance teaching and learning (for example, digital applications and tools related to money management, lifestyle, food and fashion)
- practices that support the teaching of research skills and responsible use of diverse technologies to promote digital citizenship and digital literacy (for example, artificial intelligence [AI])

- processes and practices to develop research and inquiry skills in *Family Studies* (for example, storytelling and learner-led inquiry)
- strategies to locate, examine and validate sources to inform pedagogical approaches that enhance teaching and learning (for example, educational professionals, mental health practitioners, child, youth and social workers)
- strategies that support an understanding of financial literacy to guide decision making for personal responsibility and independent living practices that reflect experiential learning opportunities (for example, field placements and simulations).

### **Accessibility for All**

- ethical responsibilities related to the Ontario Human Rights Code and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act S.O., 2005
- adaptive strategies, such as assistive technologies, accessible content and inclusive design to facilitate learning and foster inclusion (for example, wheelchair accessible labs, ergonomic and adaptive tools, adjustable furniture and audio-visual systems)
- strategies to address ableism that exists in processes and practices (for example, access to digital tools and technologies).

### **Legal and Ethical Responsibilities related to Special Education**

- legal and ethical responsibilities related to learner's Individual Education Plan (IEP), safety plan, and transition plan
- programs, strategies and services that support the learner in self-advocacy and achievement of individual goals outlined in their respective plans (for example, considerations to integrate alternative [non-credit] courses in *Family Studies*)
- interdisciplinary teams to support learning, advocacy and transitions (for example, collaborating with special education team, guidance, educational assistants, occupational therapists and other community supports).

### **Transition and Pathway Planning**

#### **Transition Planning**

- processes and practices to support all transitions from elementary to secondary and secondary to post-secondary, including college, apprenticeship, university, workplace and community living
- policies, programs and learning opportunities that value each pathway equally and equitably (for example, cooperative education, dual credits, Specialist High Skills Major [SHSM]).

## Education, Life and Career Planning

- curriculum design to relate classroom learning to learners' career and life planning (for example, development of interpersonal skills, building healthy relationships, budgeting and conflict resolution)
- exploration of how *Family Studies* offers a variety of entry points to all career pathways.

## Resources

Resources to support the development of the AQ Course *Senior Division Family Studies* can be found on the [College](#) website and the [Ontario Ministry of Education](#) website.

For additional information:  
Ontario College of Teachers  
101 Bloor Street West  
Toronto ON M5S 0A1

Telephone: 437-880-3000  
Toll-free (Canada and U.S.A.)  
1-833-966-5588  
Email: [info@oct.ca](mailto:info@oct.ca)  
[oct.ca](http://oct.ca)



**Ontario  
College of  
Teachers**

Ontario's Teaching Regulator



[oct-oeeo.ca/fb](http://oct-oeeo.ca/fb)



[oct-oeeo.ca/yt](http://oct-oeeo.ca/yt)



[oct-oeeo.ca/tw](http://oct-oeeo.ca/tw)



[oct-oeeo.ca/li](http://oct-oeeo.ca/li)