



July 9, 2021

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
438 University Avenue, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2A5

Dear Minister Lecce,

We are writing to share recommendations made by the Transition Supervisory Officer (TSO) related to the Mathematics Proficiency Test (“MPT”) and its impact on holders of Transitional Certificates of Qualification and Registration (“Transitional CQR”). We also wanted to share a past recommendation of Council related to the MPT and its impact on Internationally Educated Teacher (“IET”) reapplicants.

Transitional CQR

The Transitional CQR can be obtained after completing the first session of a multi-session program of professional education. The Transitional CQR is valid for six years with a possible one-year extension in order to reflect how long it can take to complete a multi-session program. Like other Ontario applicants, if a Transitional CQR holder with a condition to pass the MPT fails to do so by December 31, 2021, their certificate will expire and they are no longer able to teach in publicly funded schools in Ontario.

However, in order to be recertified, these individuals must not only pass the MPT but also complete the entire multi-session program. As a result, they are unable to re-apply for a Transitional CQR and the six year regulatory timeframe to complete the multi-session program is, in effect, shortened to a December 31, 2021 timeframe.

Requiring completion of the multi-session program prior to becoming recertified means these teacher candidates may have to wait up to six years to re-enter the profession. This requirement creates an unfairness in the certification process and frustrates the legislative framework of the Transitional CQRs, which are designed to be valid for six years to reflect the time it can take to complete a multi-session program.

On July 8, 2021, the Transition Supervisory Officer, acting in his capacity as Council, approved the following recommendation that:

The Teachers' Qualifications Regulation (O. Reg. 176/10) be amended to:

- 1. Allow for individuals whose Transitional CQR expired due to failure to successfully complete the MPT to re-apply for a Transitional CQR.**

2. **Remove the requirement that the individuals noted in paragraph 1 must complete the multi-session program prior to recertification.**
3. **Upon recertification, reflect the remaining validity period for the expired Transitional CQR noted in paragraph 1**

A supporting briefing note on this topic is enclosed with this letter.

Internationally Educated Teacher Reapplicants

Currently, IET applicants can be certified with conditions, such as coursework, to make up any gaps with Ontario's two-year teacher education programs. These conditions are placed on a certificate for five years. If the conditions are not met in five years, the certificate will expire. The Registrar can grant a one-year extension if presented with evidence of exceptional circumstances for not meeting the conditions.

The MPT certification requirement impacts this current certification with conditions framework. An IET must provide evidence of successful completion of the math test within two years of initial certification. If evidence of successful completion of the math test is not provided within two years, the certificate will expire. If their certificate has expired, the IET, now a former College member, can reapply for certification if they provide evidence of successful completion of (1) the math test and (2) all coursework conditions. As a result, the five year regulatory timeframe to satisfy coursework conditions is, in effect, shortened to a two year timeframe. In order to provide IETs with the full five years to complete their coursework conditions, the certification with conditions framework requires amendment.

The College proposes amending the TQR so that upon reapplication, coursework conditions that remained on the certificate at the time of expiry will be placed on certificate to reflect the remaining timeline provided.

Additionally, a new provision in regulation is required to indicate that an individual who does not provide evidence of successful completion of the math test within two years will have their certificate expire. This new provision is necessary to provide these former College members with access to the reapplication route to certification for expired certificates in the TQR. The changes to the framework would be beneficial for an IET as upon reapplication, the IET may seek employment as a certified teacher while satisfying their outstanding coursework conditions.

At its December 5-6, 2019 meeting, Council approved the following motion:

That Council recommend:

That the Minister of Education amend the Teachers' Qualifications Regulation (Regulation 176/10 - TQR) to permit applicants whose certificates have expired after two years, as a result of not providing evidence of successful completion of the math

proficiency test, a route to reapplication that respects the original five year timeframe for conditions imposed under s. 12 of the TQR.

This recommendation was previously sent to you on December 12, 2019 and we wanted to raise it again for your consideration due to the significant impact on IETs. A supporting briefing note on this topic is enclosed with this letter.

The College looks forward to working with the Ministry of Education staff to develop regulatory language for the TSO's consideration.

Sincerely,



Paul Boniferra
Transition Supervisory Officer



Dr. Derek Haime, OCT
Registrar and Chief Executive Officer

Encl: Briefing Note - Math Test: Transitional Certificates
Briefing Note - Math Test: Reapplicant with Conditions

PB/DH/SR/tk-ccs



Briefing Note

Math Proficiency Test – Transitional Certificates

Background

All Ontario and Internationally Educated Teacher (“IET”) applicants for certification must pass the Mathematics Proficiency Test (“MPT”).¹ Ontario applicants may be certified with a condition to pass the test otherwise their certificate will expire.

The MPT requirement applies for all holders of a General, Temporary or Transitional Certificate of Qualification and Registration (“CQR”). A General CQR can be obtained by applicants who have completed a program of professional education. A Temporary Certificate is available for teacher candidates who are enrolled in a program of professional education that will be successfully completed by December 31, 2021 and the certificate expires on the same date.

The Transitional CQR can be obtained after completing the first session of a multi-session program of professional education. Multi-session programs can be completed over a long period of times (sometimes four years or longer).

The Transitional CQR is valid for six years with a possible one-year extension.

Like other Ontario applicants, if a Transitional CQR holder with a condition to pass the MPT fails to do so by the prescribed date, their certificate will expire and they are no longer able to teach in publicly funded schools in Ontario.

However, in order to be recertified, these individuals must not only pass the MPT but also complete the entire multi-session program.² As a result, they are unable to re-apply for a Transitional CQR.

Requiring completion of the multi-session program prior to becoming recertified means these teacher candidates may have to wait up to six years to re-enter the profession. These teachers are often employed in subject areas where supply of qualified teachers in Ontario is extremely low and their removal would be damaging to school programming.

This requirement creates an unfairness in the certification process and frustrates the legislative framework of the Transitional CQRs, which are designed to be valid for six years to reflect the time it can take to complete a multi-session program.

Deans of Faculties of Education have also written to the College expressing concerns should these teacher candidates lose their certification. A key concern is that teacher candidates may not continue in the program as a result of not being able to gain employment while completing the program.

¹ Section 18 (1)(c) of the *Ontario College of Teachers Act*

² Teachers’ Qualifications Regulation (O. Reg. 176/10) at s. 6.2(3)(g)

Staff Recommendation

The Teachers' Qualifications Regulation (O. Reg. 176/10) should be amended to allow for the recertification of individuals whose Transitional CQR expired due to failure to pass the MPT by the prescribed condition expiry date. They should not be required to complete the multi-session program prior to recertification and the Transitional CQR would be issued with the validity period that existed prior to expiry. For example, if an individual passed the MPT and applied for recertification following the expiry of their Transitional CQR that was originally valid until 2026, the new Transitional CQR would also be valid until 2026.

Staff recommend that the Transition Supervisory Officer (the "TSO"), acting in his capacity as Council, approve the following motion:

The Teachers' Qualifications Regulation (O. Reg. 176/10) be amended to:

- 1. Allow for individuals whose Transitional CQR expired due to failure to successfully complete the MPT to re-apply for a Transitional CQR.**
- 2. Remove the requirement that the individuals noted in paragraph 1 must complete the multi-session program prior to recertification.**
- 3. Upon recertification, reflect the remaining validity period for the expired Transitional CQR noted in paragraph 1.**

Next Steps

Upon approval by the TSO, the proposed regulatory direction would be shared with the Minister of Education. The College and the Ministry of Education would then work together to develop regulatory amendments that would be shared with the TSO for approval.

Prepared by:
Policy and Research Unit

Date:
June 4, 2021



Ontario
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Setting the Standard
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Briefing Note

Math Proficiency Test: Reapplicant with Conditions

Background

On October 25, 2018, the Ontario Government introduced the *Safe and Supportive Classrooms Act*, which proposed changes to the *Ontario College of Teachers Act* that would require all applicants for licensure to pass a Mathematics Proficiency Test.

On September 1, 2019, these amendments came into force and the Ontario Government introduced a regulation under the *College's Act*, the *Proficiency in Mathematics Regulation* (O. Reg. 271/19 – “Mathematics Regulation”). This regulation sets out operational details for the certification requirement:

- All Ontario applicants who complete their application on or after March 31, 2020 would have to pass the test in order to become certified.
- All Internationally Educated Teacher (IET) applicants who complete their application on or after March 31, 2020 would have to provide evidence of successful completion of the math test within two years of initial certification.

The College is currently working with the faculties of education, Ministry of Education and Education Quality and Accountability Office to implement the new certification requirement on March 31, 2020. Council will be regularly updated on the progress of these efforts.

Reapplicants with Conditions

Currently, the framework for IET applicants is as follows:

- IETs can be certified with conditions, such as coursework conditions, to make up any gaps with Ontario's teacher education programs.
- These conditions are placed on a certificate for five years.
- If the conditions are not met in five years, the certificate will expire.
- The Registrar can grant a one-year extension if presented with evidence of exceptional circumstances for not meeting the conditions.

The Mathematics Proficiency Test certification requirement impacts this current certification with conditions framework:

- An IET must provide evidence of successful completion of the math test within two years of initial certification.
- If evidence of successful completion of the math test is not provided within two years, the certificate will expire.
- If their certificate has expired, the IET, now a former College member, can reapply for certification if they provide evidence of successful completion of (1) the math test and (2) all coursework conditions.

As a result, the five year regulatory timeframe to satisfy coursework conditions is, in effect, shortened to a two year timeframe. In order to provide IETs with the full five years to complete their coursework conditions, the certification with conditions framework requires amendment.

Proposed Course of Action

Proposed modifications to the current certification with conditions framework are set out as follows:

- **CURRENT:** An IET applicant who is certified with math test and coursework conditions can lose certification as a result of not providing evidence of successful completion of the math test within two years of initial certification.
- **CURRENT:** The IET would be permitted to reapply for certification upon providing evidence of successful completion of the math test.
- **NEW:** Upon reapplication, coursework conditions that remained on the certificate at the time of expiry will be placed on the certificate for three years to reflect the original five year timeline provided to the IET applicant.
- **NEW:** A new section is also required to indicate that an individual who does not provide evidence of successful completion of the math test within two years will have their certificate expire. This new section is necessary to provide these former College members with access to the reapplication route to certification for expired certificates in the Teachers' Qualifications Regulation (TQR).

These changes to the certification with conditions framework will require regulatory amendments to the TQR. The changes to the

framework would be beneficial for an IET as upon reapplication, the IET may seek employment as a certified teacher while having three years to satisfy their outstanding coursework conditions.

Regulatory Considerations

Teachers' Qualifications Regulation

The Teacher's Qualifications Regulation (TQR) sets out how individuals can reapply to the College after losing certification. Section 6.2 of the TQR sets out the reapplication route to certification for expired certificates, so a new section of the TQR is required to allow access to this route, as set out below. Also, for coursework conditions to be placed on a new certificate for a reapplicant, section 13.2(1) of the TQR should be amended as set out below:

Reapplication requirements, previous certificate cancelled due to expiry
S. 6.2 (4) A general certificate of qualification and registration subject to a condition imposed pursuant to s. 2(3) of Ontario Regulation 271/19 (Proficiency in Mathematics) made under the Act expires if the condition is not met in the period agreed to by the Registrar and the applicant.

Applicants under s. 6.2 (expiry)

13.2 (1) The Registrar may grant to an applicant under section 6.2 a general certificate of qualification and registration if the Registrar has satisfactory evidence that the applicant has,

...

(2) **Subject to subsection (4),** for an applicant described in subsection 6.2 (1), the requirements under this subsection are that,

...

(b) the applicant has satisfied any terms, conditions or limitations that were included on the certificate at the time of cancellation.

...

(4) For an applicant described in subsection 6.2 (1) who previously held a certificate that

was cancelled as a result of failing to satisfy a condition imposed pursuant to s. 2(3) of Ontario Regulation 271/19 (Proficiency in Mathematics) made under the Act, the requirements under this subsection are that,

(a) the applicant has satisfied the condition imposed pursuant to s. 2(3) of Ontario Regulation 271/19 (Proficiency in Mathematics) made under the Act, and

(b) a general certificate of qualification and registration granted under this subsection,

(i) expires three years after the day it was granted unless it is extended under subsection 12(6),

(ii) will be subject to the conditions imposed pursuant to s. 12(3) that were included on the certificate at the time of cancellation, and

(iii) will be subject to s. 12(4), and (6) with respect to the conditions imposed under this subsection.

Council Motion

It is recommended that Council approve the following motion at its December 5-6, 2019 meeting:

That Council recommend:

That the Minister of Education amend the Teachers' Qualifications Regulation (Regulation 176/10 - TQR) to permit applicants whose certificates have expired after two years, as a result of not providing evidence of successful completion of the math proficiency test, a route to

reapplication that respects the original five year timeframe for conditions imposed under s. 12 of the TQR.

Next Steps

If Council approves the direction noted above, the College would work with the Ministry of Education in the development of regulatory language for Council's consideration.

Strategic Priority

These amendments would align with Council's Strategic Priority to strengthen transparency and accountability by clearly communicating how the math test condition will apply to IETs. The College will also be providing a path to reapplication should IETs' certificates expire because of the math test condition.

Prepared by:

Policy and Research Unit

Date:

November 8, 2019