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Memo

Date: November 13, 2019
To: Members of Council
From: Michael Salvatori, OCT
Chief Executive Officer and Registrar
Subject: **Math Proficiency Test – Reapplicants with Conditions**

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.

The Mathematics Proficiency Test certification requirement as set out in the Proficiency in Mathematics Regulation (O. Reg. 271/19) impacts the current certification with conditions framework by in effect shortening the five-year regulatory timeframe to satisfy coursework conditions to a two-year timeframe. In order to provide Internationally Educated Teachers with the full five years to complete their coursework conditions, the certification with conditions framework requires amendment.

Motions related to proposed modifications to the current certification with conditions framework are included for Council's consideration in the attached detailed briefing note.

Michael Salvatori, OCT



Ontario
College of
Teachers

Setting the Standard
for Great Teaching

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