



## Focus on

# Graduation Assessments: Numeracy and Literacy

## Details

As part of the updated Ministry of Education graduation requirements, students in the new Graduation Program will have to complete a provincial literacy and numeracy assessment. This assessment is not tied to any particular curriculum.

The Graduation Numeracy Assessment is being implemented this year, and the Graduation Literacy Assessment will be implemented in the 2019–20 school year, replacing the existing Language Arts 12 examinations.

A motion was passed at the May 2016 BCTF Representative Assembly meeting:

*That continued participation in the development of a new Provincial Student Assessment Program instrument at the secondary level be premised on student and school data being protected and therefore not released or available for misuse by outside groups; and, that an updated report and recommendations, as necessary, be brought to the fall Representative Assembly.*

Subsequent to this motion being passed, the BCTF, unable to secure the required assurances regarding data use from the Ministry of Education, withdrew from the Graduation Assessment development process. The Ministry continued with the development process.

In January 2018, as part of the implementation plan, the Ministry ran a large-scale pilot of the new Graduation Numeracy Assessment with just over 9,000 students.

### Numeracy Pilot Assessment Feedback

The following key concerns were received from the field about the pilot numeracy assessment:

- The literacy level of the assessment was too high, preventing some students from being able to demonstrate their numeracy skills.
- The complexity of some questions made them difficult for students (and teachers) to understand.
- There were some technical issues with the online portion of the assessment, especially with those students requiring the use of adaptive technologies.
- Many parents were ill-informed about the purpose of the assessment and how the resultant proficiency scale would be used.

The Graduation Numeracy Assessment will be a graduation requirement for all students graduating after June 2018.

### Students Who Have Completed Math 10

If a student has already completed a Math 10 provincial exam, it will satisfy the Graduation Numeracy Assessment requirement.

Students will take the Graduation Numeracy Assessment during their graduation years; schools will determine scheduling. Students can write the assessment up to three times to improve their proficiency score.

A student's proficiency score for the graduation assessment will be recorded on their student transcript. The level of a student's proficiency score does not affect the student's ability to graduate, however, it remains to be seen what effect it may have on post-secondary entrance requirements or when applying for a job.

## BCTF Advice

It is the BCTF's position that it is the responsibility of school districts and school administration to inform parents about the Numeracy and Literacy Assessments. However, as BCTF members are often the main contact point for parents, they may be asked to provide information about the assessments.

The Ministry of Education has produced a guide for parents on the Numeracy Graduation Assessment. It may be useful for teachers to share the [link](#) to that guide with parents.

### Numeracy Assessment Marking

The BCTF is aware that the Ministry of Education has posted for teacher markers for the Graduation Numeracy Assessment.

As the BCTF has withdrawn from the development process for these assessments, the advice to members is that they do not participate in these marking sessions.

## Links

More information and resources can be found [here](#) on the Ministry of Education's curriculum web page.

The BCTF has published two position papers that outline the BCTF's positions on Graduation:

1. [Updated Graduation Requirements Review \(2016\)](#)
2. [Priorities for Public Education \(2017\)](#).