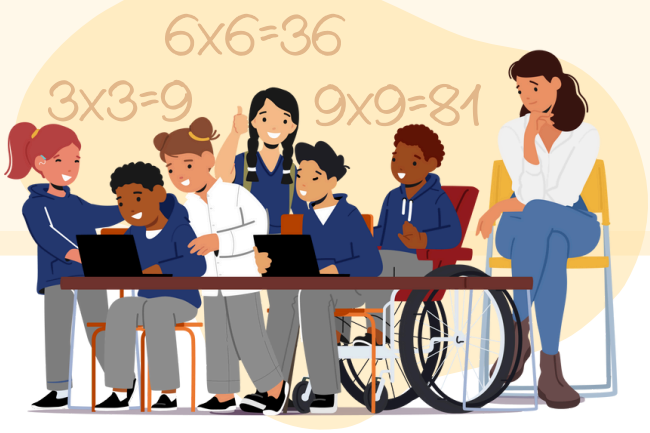
MATHEMATICS CURRICULUM & INNOVATION



Winter 2026

TCDSB MATHEMATICS

Family Newsletter

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Toronto, ON, M2N 6E8
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https://www.tcdsb.org/

TCDSB 2023 MATHEMATICS ACHIEVEMENT ACTION PLAN



ONTARIO 2020 MATHEMATICS CURRICULUM

Ontario

RESORCES FOR PARENTS

PURPOSE OF NEWSLETTER

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep families informed about mathematics education at the TCDSB.

What you'll find in this edition:

- Board EQAO Data and Webinar Information
- Categories of Assessment
- Math Support at Home
- Kindergarten Curriculum coming September 2026
- What Students Need to Graduate High School
- The Secondary Mathematics Pathways

ROLE OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS

A strong partnership between schools and families is essential for fostering and supporting children's math education.

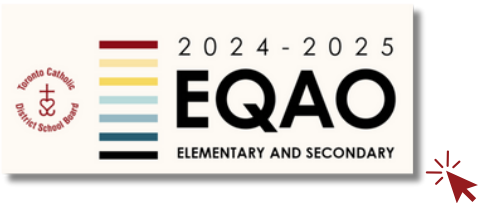
Research demonstrates that active caregiver and family involvement positively impacts student success. Caregivers can support their child's learning by maintaining regular communication with educators, encouraging a positive mindset about math, and staying informed and engaged in their child's math experiences.

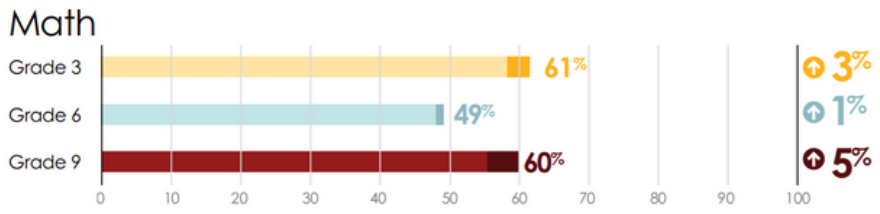
EQAO

The goal of EQAO is to provide a snapshot of student achievement against the Ontario Curriculum standards and inform school/board improvement planning.

TCDSB Results

The recent EQAO results highlight growth for Toronto Catholic students in both literacy and math, rising steadily over the years. These gains reflect the collective dedication of our students, educators, and families.

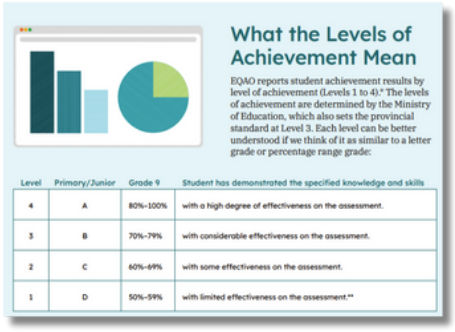




Access public EQAO data for your school here: **https://www.eqao.com/results/**

Levels of Achievement

EQAO reports student achievement by level (Levels 1 to 4). The levels of achievement are determined by the Ministry of Education, which also sets the provincial standard at Level 3.



Support and Webinars

EQAO offers free live webinars where EQAO staff discuss math questions that Ontario students encounter when they participate in Ontario's large-scale assessments. During the webinar, EQAO staff show how these math questions help assess the skills students are learning in their math classes. Staff will also highlight valuable insights and resources that can help parents and guardians support their child's learning.

Explore webinars and register HERE!

Categories of Knowledge and Skills

Guided by Growing Success (2010), Ontario's assessment policy ensures that grading remains fair, transparent, and consistent across all schools. In this policy, the Achievement Chart organizes student learning into four categories of knowledge and skills. Teachers provide many opportunities for students to demonstrate their reach across all four areas.

At-Home Connections

Supporting your child at home doesn't require teaching complex formulas. Instead, you can focus on the four categories of achievement. By changing the types of questions you ask during daily routines, you can help them develop the skills aligned with the categories.

Knowledge and Understanding



Focus: Does my child have math-specific knowledge and understanding (e.g., "facts" and "how-to" steps)?

- **The "What is..." Question**: Ask identifying questions: "What shape is that sign?" or "How many centimeters are in a meter?"
- **Grocery Store Hunt:** Ask them find and read the price of an item or the weight of a bag of apples.

Application



Focus: Can my child apply their knowledge and understanding to solve a problem, and make connections within and between various contexts?

- **The "Best Deal" Challenge:** At the store, ask which item is cheaper per unit. "Is the big box of cookies a better deal than the small one?"
- **DIY Projects:** Let them help with measuring for a home repair or a craft. "How much wrapping paper do we need for this box?"

Communication



Focus: Can my child explain their "why" and "how" and use the math vocabulary? "Communication" isn't just about the right answer; it's about the labels, the diagrams, and the clear explanation.

- **The "Talk-Aloud" Strategy:** When solving a problem, ask: "How did you get that?" or "Can you show me in another way?"
- **Vocabulary Check:** Encourage the use of math words, including vocabulary in other languages, if applicable.

Thinking

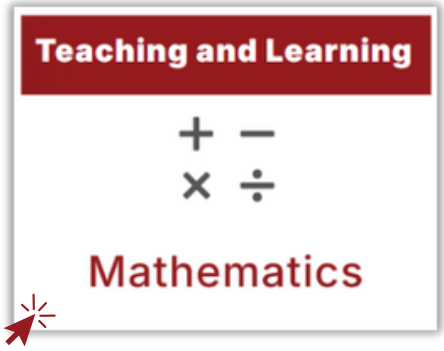


Focus: Can my child develop a plan and then select and sequence mulitple steps using a variety of tools.

- **Open-Ended Questions:** Instead of "What is $20 + 20$?", ask: "How many ways can you make the number 40?"
- **The "What If" Game:** "What if we only had five-dollar bills? How would we pay for a $23 pizza?"

Math Support at Home

Looking for ways to support your child at home? Our Teaching and Learning Mathematics page invites families to explore available and relevant resources.



You'll find information about how to access to free tutoring, virtual manipulatives, and supplemental resources that enhance the learning experience and build upon classroom instruction and enriching math learning at home.

New! Kindergarten Curriculum

The Ontario government recently released the updated 2026 Kindergarten curriculum, with an enhanced focus on literacy and numeracy, in order to prepare students for Grade 1. The new Kingergarten curriculum is set for full implementation effective September 2026. The program is organized into four core strands:

- Foundations of Language and Mathematics
- Problem Solving and Innovating
- Self-Regulation and Well-Being
- Belonging and Contributing

These strands balance evidence-based systematic and explicit instruction, play-based, and inquiry-based instruction. We invite you to explore what's new to the Kindergarten curriculum from the Key Changes Kindergarten Curriculum document.



WHAT YOU NEED TO GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL

FOR STUDENTS WHO WILL BE BEGIINING GRADE 9 IN SEPTEMBER 2026:

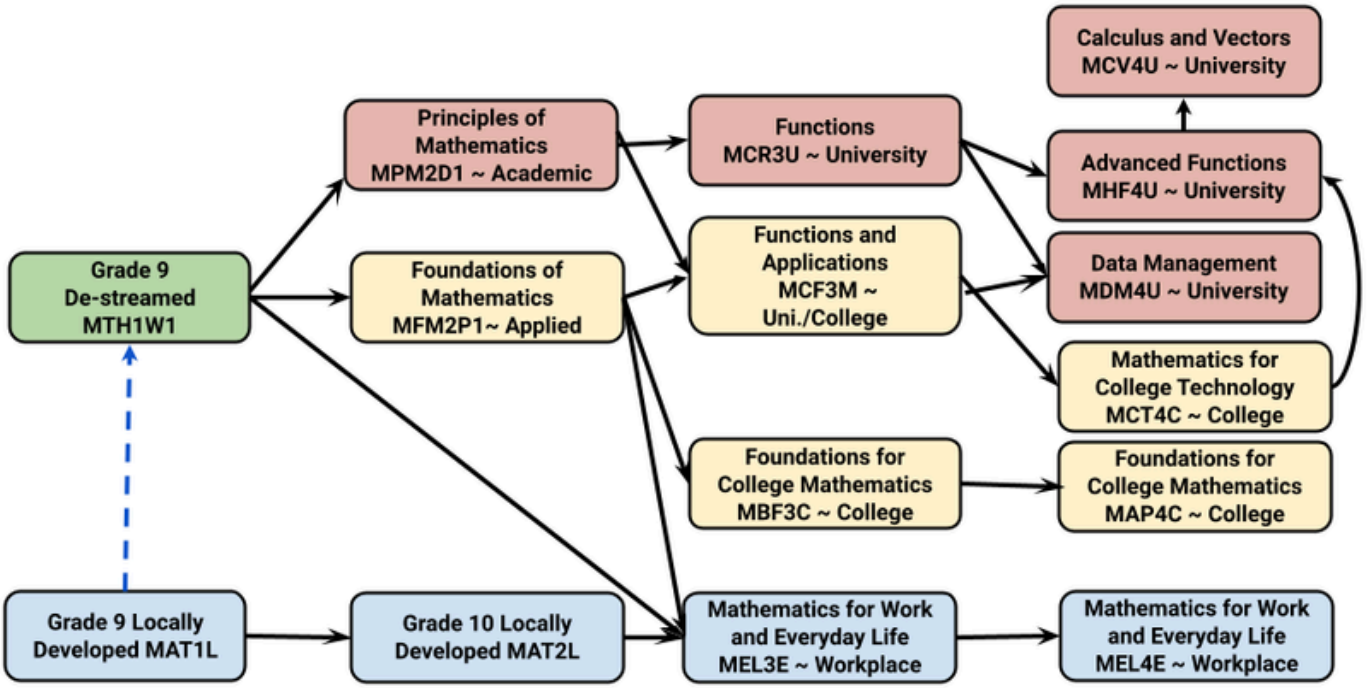
17 compulsory credits

Students must earn the following compulsory credits to obtain the Ontario Secondary School Diploma:		Plus one credit from the following group:	
4	credits in English (1 credit per grade)	1	Stem-related course group: business studies computer studies cooperative education mathematics (in addition to the 3 compulsory credits currently required) science (in addition to the 2 compulsory credits currently required) technological education (in addition to the 1 compulsory credit required)
3	credits in Mathematics (Grade 9, 10, and 11 or 12		
2	credits in science		
1	credit in Technological Education (Grade 9 or 10)		
1	credit in Canadian History (Grade 10)		
1	credit in Canadian Geography (Grade 9)		
1	credit in the Arts		
1	credit in Health and Physical Education		
1	credit in French as a Second Language		
0.5	credit in Career Studies		
0.5	credit in Civics and Citizenship		

In addition, students must complete:

✓	4 religion credits (1 per grade)
✓	9 optional credits
✓	40 hours of community involvement activities (which can start the summer before grade 9)
✓	The provincial literacy requirement
✓	2 online courses

THE SECONDARY MATHEMATICS PATHWAYS



This chart maps out the mathematics courses and the links between courses and their possible prerequisites. Please note it does not attempt to depict all possible movements from course to course.

THE GRADE 9 MATHEMATICS COURSE

The EQAO Grade 9 assessment of mathematics assesses the knowledge and skills which students are expected to learn by the end of the Grade 9 destreamed mathematics course. As such, the results of this assessment will be included in the final evaluation of the Grade 9 mathematics course.

For more information about Mathematics at the TCDSB, including past newlsetters, please visit our Mathematics Teaching and Learning page linked HERE.

