



## Statement - Government Decision to End Streaming

July 2020

The Ontario Principals' Council (OPC) supports the decision announced on July 8 by the government to end the process of streaming Grade 9 students into academic and applied courses. This decision will help to address the inequities and over representation of underserved communities in the applied level programs.

Principals and vice-principals also applaud the measured approach that gives time for planning and multi-stakeholder input to support a successful launch of a single, foundational grade 9 math course in September 2021. This, coupled with additional elementary classroom-based supports, will reduce learning gaps prior to students entering secondary school. School leaders have considerable experience and insight to offer with regard to this process.

To be successful, additional resources are required to ensure de-streaming efforts meet the needs of our students, including

- appropriately sized classes to support differentiated instruction, which will also allow for additional one-to-one time for teachers to spend with some students
- more Education Assistants and Special Education Resource Teachers to support students, particularly those who are not at grade level when they enter grade 9 and
- new professional learning for principals and vice-principals as they support the implementation of this initiative through instructional leadership and supervision.

Additionally, the government will need to

- reassess the grade 9 EQAO test, which currently offers different versions for students in applied and academic courses, to ensure all students have the ability to be successful
- develop, assess and in-service the new foundational curriculum and provide ancillary resources for students and teachers and
- develop, offer and fund new professional learning for teachers to provide them with the skills to better support students – especially racialized students and those with special education needs – so they can be successful.

