

September 3, 2026

Denise A. Cole
Deputy Minister of Education
438 University Avenue, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON
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Dear Denise,

On behalf of Ontario's principals and vice-principals, we are pleased to provide our perspective on the Ministry's new eLearning examination requirements.

We support the Ministry's commitment to assessment integrity, provincial consistency and rigorous online learning. As school leaders responsible for implementation at the school level, we respectfully recommend a one-year implementation period to allow the Ministry, school boards and school leaders to establish the guidance, protocols and technology required for consistent and sustainable implementation.

This additional time would strengthen the Ministry's objectives by supporting a coordinated approach and reducing unintended impacts on students, families, educators and schools.

From a school leadership perspective, several considerations require careful planning:

Scheduling and coordination. School calendars, semester structures, examination schedules and time zones vary across Ontario. Students taking online courses through another board may face conflicts between their home school schedule and the delivering board's examination requirements. Clear provincial processes will be needed to manage these situations fairly and consistently.

School operations. In-person eLearning examinations would require schools to secure space, arrange supervision, verify identity, coordinate across boards, provide accommodations and support students who may not be enrolled in the host school. This creates significant administrative and staffing demands for principals, vice-principals and school teams.

Technology readiness. While D2L/Brightspace provides a common learning platform, centrally supported and funded tools for authentication, examination authoring and secure invigilation are not yet in place. Without a common solution, implementation is likely to vary across the province.

Student access. eLearning supports students with medical, mental health, employment, athletic, Indigenous, cultural or other circumstances that make traditional in-person attendance more challenging. Mandatory in-person examinations could unintentionally reduce access to a model designed to meet diverse student needs.

Summer school. These challenges are amplified during summer programming, when school access, staffing and student location can vary significantly, making consistent implementation difficult.

A provincially supported solution embedded within D2L/Brightspace would help address many of these issues. A common approach to examination authoring, security, authentication and proctoring would reduce workload, minimize home-school coordination and support clearer communication with students and families at registration.

A one-year implementation period would allow time to:

- establish a provincial implementation working group with Ministry, board, eLearning and school leader representation;
- develop clear guidance for administration, scheduling, supervision, accommodations, communication and contingency planning;
- identify a provincially approved online proctoring solution that meets Canadian privacy and security requirements; and
- give schools and boards time to communicate expectations, adjust course outlines and implement the requirements consistently.

Principals and vice-principals remain committed to working with the Ministry, school boards and provincial partners to support successful implementation. We believe a measured timeline will promote consistency, protect student access and ensure schools have the conditions required to implement the requirements effectively.

We value the Ministry's ongoing partnership and welcome the opportunity to contribute to an approach that reflects both the Ministry's vision and the realities of school-level leadership. We would be pleased to participate in a meeting to discuss this further.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to continuing this important work together.

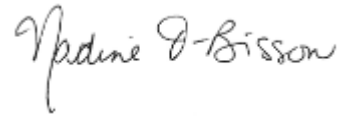
Sincerely,



Benoît Dussault
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ADFO



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Executive Director
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c.c.

Yael Ginsler, Assistant Deputy Minister, Student Achievement Division

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