

**To:** ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members  
**From:** Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)  
**Date:** October 7, 2020

**Regarding: Professional Judgement and Diagnostic Assessment**

Teacher Professional Judgement is defined in *Growing Success*, reinforced in *Ministry of Education Policy and Program Memorandum No. 155 (PPM 155)*, and embedded in the language of the Collective Agreement (Article C2.5, *Professional Judgement*).

Teachers are directed to follow the Collective Agreement.

**The key components of the language in Collective Agreement Article C10.00, Diagnostic Assessment are as follows:**

- *Boards shall provide a list of pre-approved assessment tools consistent with their Board improvement plan for student achievement and PPM 155.*
- *Teachers shall use their professional judgement to determine which assessment and/or evaluation tool(s) from the Board list of pre-approved assessment tools is applicable, for which student(s) as well as the frequency and timing of the tool.*
- *Teachers must use diagnostic assessment during the school year.*
- *The results of diagnostic assessments shall not be used in any way in evaluating Teachers. No Teacher shall suffer discipline or discharge as a consequence of any diagnostic assessment results.*

**The Thames Valley District School Board's current list of diagnostic assessments is as follows:**

Assessment	Recommended Grade Level(s)
<b>Choices of Reading Assessments:</b>	
Primary Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA2)	K – Grade 3; Grade 2 French Immersion
Junior Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA)	Grades 4 – 6; Grade 5 French Immersion
Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA)	For intermediate students reading below Grade 7 level
GB+	Grades 1 - 8, French Immersion
PM Benchmarks	K - 4
Benchmark Assessment System (BAS)	K - 12
TVDSB-created assessments for each elementary grade and secondary course	Grades 1 - 12

**Thames Valley District School Board's current list of diagnostic assessments: - continued...**

<b>Choices of Writing Assessments:</b>	
Ontario Writing Assessment (OWA)	Grades 1 - 8
Sample EQAO Assessments	Grades 3, 6, and 10 as well as grades leading up to them
TVDSB-created assessments for each elementary grade and secondary course	Grades 1 - 12
<b>Choices of Math Assessments:</b>	
Professional Resources and Instruction for Mathematics Education (PRIME)	K – 8, Numbers and Operations
Inventory of Mathematics Skills	Grades 7, 8, Grade 9
Leaps and Bounds	Grades 1 - 8
Sample EQAO Assessments	Grades 3, 6 & 9 as well as grades leading up to them
TVDSB-created assessments for each elementary grade and secondary course	Grades 1 - 12

**Note that direction to administer any Math or Language task not listed above is a violation of Collective Agreement Article C10.00, Diagnostic Assessment.**

Teachers should be prepared to provide evidence/documentation of their use of diagnostic assessment. Documentation may be for individual students or for small groups of students and does not need to include data for an entire class. Documentation could take a variety of forms including but not limited to: pretests, observations, rubrics, checklists, student self-reflection tools (e.g., exit cards), or running records.

Non-homeroom Teachers should use their own informal diagnostic assessments for their subject area and be prepared to provide evidence if requested to do so by their Principal.

Administrators cannot direct Teachers to perform diagnostic assessment in a manner that is contrary to Teacher professional judgement or in contravention of the Collective Agreement. Teachers cannot be directed to use a specific tool, to administer assessments to specific students or to complete an assessment by a specific date regardless of how the Principal or Board labels the assessment.

Questions regarding this memo should be directed to the ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local office at 519-474-3150.

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*c/ Released Executive, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local  
 Terry Card, President, ETFO Thames Valley Occasional Teacher Local  
 Elizabeth Kettle, Executive Assistant, ETFO Provincial  
 Linda Nicholls, Superintendent of Human Resources, Organizational Support Services, Thames Valley District School Board*