Thames Valley District School Board

Dear families and caregivers,

We would like to share information about changes from the Ontario Ministry of Education that affect students in Grades 9 to 12.

The Ministry has updated *Growing Success*, the provincial policy that guides assessment, evaluation and reporting in Ontario schools.

Four Changes for 2026–2027

20–25%
Final Evaluation
Most courses now include a written final exam.

10–15%
Attendance and Participation
Now part of the final grade. Excused absences do not count against students.

20%
Grade 9 EQAO Math
The provincial assessment counts toward the final Grade 9 Math mark.

Financial Literacy
New graduation requirement, completed in Grade 10 Career Studies.

Final Grades and Final Evaluations

Beginning this school year, final grades in secondary courses will generally be calculated as follows:

Component of the final grade	Grades 9 and 10	Grades 11 and 12
Classroom work completed throughout the course	**65%**	**65%**
Mandatory final evaluation	**20%**	**25%**
Attendance and participation	**15%**	**10%**
Total	**100%**	**100%**

Most secondary courses will now include a **written exam** as part of the mandatory final evaluation. Written final exams will take place during the designated examination period.

The format and weighting of final evaluations vary by course and subject. Some courses are exempt from the written exam requirement and may instead use other forms of final evaluation, such as culminating tasks, projects, portfolios or presentations. Teachers will share the assessment and evaluation requirements for each course with students.

Students without a written exam may use the evaluation days to finish part of their final evaluation or to further show their learning. Grade 9 math (MTH1W) students who haven't yet written their EQAO assessment must attend during this period.

Attendance and Participation

Regular attendance and active participation are important parts of learning. Beginning in 2026–2027, attendance and participation are included in the calculation of a student's final grade: **15% in Grades 9 and 10** and **10% in Grades 11 and 12**. Students will be assessed in accordance with Ministry of Education requirements.

Excused absences will not negatively affect a student's final grade. These may include absences related to illness or other unavoidable circumstances, as well as approved absences such as cultural days and holy days. Please continue to let your school know when circumstances affect your child's attendance.

You can report an absence through the school app, by calling the school's attendance line, or by contacting the school office.

To make sure absences are recorded correctly, please report all Semester 1 absences by **January 22, 2027**.

Grade 9 EQAO Mathematics Assessment

This year the **Grade 9 EQAO Mathematics Assessment will count for 20% of a student's final Grade 9 Mathematics mark**. The assessment measures the mathematics knowledge and skills students develop through the Grade 9 Mathematics curriculum. Teachers will continue to support students throughout the course as they build the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to show their learning on classroom assessments and the provincial EQAO assessment.

New Financial Literacy Graduation Requirement

Students who began Grade 9 in **September 2025 or later** must successfully complete a Financial Literacy Graduation Requirement to earn their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

- It is completed within the compulsory **Grade 10 Career Studies** course, using learning modules and assessment questions developed by TVO.
- Students must achieve **70% or higher** and will have **two opportunities** during the course to do so.
- The result counts for **5% of the final Career Studies mark**.
- Once completed, it is recorded on the student's Ontario Student Transcript.
- Students who are not successful after two attempts will have additional opportunities and supports to meet the requirement.

Which Changes Apply to My Child?

Change	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
New final grade weightings and final evaluations	✓	✓	✓	✓
Attendance and participation in final grade	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grade 9 EQAO Math counts for 20%	✓	–	–	–
Financial Literacy Graduation Requirement*	✓	✓	–	–

*Applies to students who began Grade 9 in September 2025 or later. It is completed in Grade 10 Career Studies.

Supporting Students Through These Changes

We recognize that these are new expectations for students and families. TVDSB schools will work with students throughout the year to help them understand the requirements, prepare for assessments and final evaluations, and build strong attendance, participation and learning habits.

Families can help by encouraging regular attendance and punctuality, talking with their child about their learning, helping them plan ahead for major assessments and final evaluations, and contacting the teacher or school when circumstances may affect attendance or the completion of course requirements.

Teachers and schools will share more detailed information about assessment and evaluation in individual courses. If you have questions about how these changes apply to your child, please contact your child's teacher or school administration.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting student learning, achievement and well-being.

If you require additional information, please contact your child's school directly.