

Teachers' Bulletin

www.osstfd20.ca

905-332-1228

Term Marks vs. Final 30%

Why are we stressing out my students for this????

Jeff Boulton, Iroquois Ridge

Experienced Teachers know from experience that the marks change very little once the summatives and final exams are factored in with the term marks. It creates a lot of stress for the students with questionable benefits.

Gathering data from 1100 student results for all my classes from 2002-2010, I found that the term marks predict final marks with a 95% rate of accuracy over a class average ($r = 0.975$, $r^2 = 0.95$). There is very little change.

Eighty percent of all students' marks move by less than 4%; 55% move by less than 2%. If a mark change is down (and not up) the change is greater with higher variability. In other words there is a greater down side potential.

The final 30% creates the greatest risk and variability in final marks for those who are already at risk (i.e. the lower the term mark, the greater the movement).

Grievance Update:

OSSTF has settled 3 individual grievances involving letters of expectations/discipline, and a policy grievance around January/July/August Job Posting. The OSSTF has agreed to have the Exam Supervision Policy Grievance in abeyance while the Staffing Advisory Sub-Committee is working on a protocol acceptable to the federation and the board.

Currently, we have three individual grievances at Step 1. Our grievance regarding the Board's denial of previous trade experience for placement on the grid is in abeyance, at the Board's request, until Feb. 28, so that the Board can review its procedures. Two grievance letters regarding, first, the Board's denial of previous business experience for placement on the grid, and second, a Board error in its top-up procedure for semester 2 were delivered last week. We await the Board's response.

Noteworthy Dates on the Critical Path

Teachers should note the following items and upcoming dates of importance from the Board's critical path:

- **February 15:** Deadline for requesting a leave of absence for September, 2011.
- **March 1:** Deadline for requesting for September 2011 a voluntary transfer/exchange, extension of leave of absence, reduced assignment, extension of reduced assignment, consideration for increased assignment, confirmation of intent to return to previous employment status, confirmation of intent to return from a leave of absence.
- **March 10:** Incumbent heads indicate to the Principal whether or not they wish to continue with their Headship responsibilities for September 2011
- **April 1:** Teachers may appeal their placement on the seniority list

OECD Ranks Us Second!

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Report

REPORT CARD		
Education and Skills		
1	Finland	A
2	Canada	A
3	Japan	B
4	Switzerland	B
5	Sweden	B
6	Australia	B
7	Germany	B
8	Netherlands	B
9	Belgium	B
10	U.K.	C
11	Denmark	C
12	Austria	C
13	Ireland	C
14	France	C
15	Norway	C
16	U.S.	C
17	Italy	D

Note: Data for the most recent year available were used.
Source: The Conference Board of Canada.

<http://www.conferenceboard.ca/HCP/overview/Educationskills.aspx>

Communication Centre Arbitration

The Teachers in the HDSB Communication Centres are not allocated prep time as set out in the contract. This grievance was denied by the Board at Step 2 and is now approved for Labour Board Arbitration by OSSTF provincial. The arbitration is set for May.

OTIP Long Term Disability Insurance Rate Increase to Maintain Reserves

- Rate increase March 1, 2011 – rate increase 0.517% to 0.543%
- Recommendation of actuarial review to increase the premium by 5%
- Required to maintain the adequate funds in reserve to fund present claims and to meet the needs of future claims based upon our claim history

OSSTF Workshops

To register for these workshops, CHATT or call Lorie Wiersma, (905) 332-1228

Retirement

The Retirement workshop will occur on February 24th, 2011 @ M.M. Robinson High School in Burlington. The workshop will begin at 6:30pm and conclude around 9:00.

Effective Classroom Management

Tuesday, February 22, 2011
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
OSSTF District 20 Office
(3410 South Service Rd., Burlington)
A light dinner will be provided!

MATERNITY/PARENTING WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY MARCH 23, 2011
4:00 TO 6:00
SNACKS PROVIDED
OSSTF DISTRICT 20 OFFICE
3410 SOUTH SERVICE ROAD
BURLINGTON

Education not PC's Focus

Ken Coran, President of OSSTF, recently commented that education is not a focus of the PC's. Hudak's four main topics are the private sector as the engine of economic growth; energy policy as economic policy; infrastructure and health care; and Ontario families and consumer confidence. His response to a Durham trustee about education included: "Too much bureaucracy," "Allow teachers to deduct marks," "Reject notion of paying students to improve," "Everything must be measurable," and "More trades in secondary schools."