



Ontario  
Certified  
Teacher  
OCT  
The Mark of  
Professionalism

# OCT stands for Ontario Certified Teacher and is a professional designation granted by the Ontario College of Teachers.



Only qualified, certified teachers who are members of the Ontario College of Teachers can use the OCT designation.

You will find it on written and electronic materials including business cards, report cards and letters.

The College's Council approved use of the designation in September 2008 by certified, qualified College members in good standing. Enseignante agréée de l'Ontario, Enseignant agréé de l'Ontario or EAO is the equivalent French terminology for use by French-language College members.

## What the designation is and what it stands for

OCT signifies membership in Ontario's self-regulated teaching profession. The OCT designation distinguishes holders as qualified teachers who are licensed to teach in Ontario's publicly funded schools and school systems.

The OCT designation protects the public interest in public education. It's a statement of accountability that:

- identifies qualified teachers in Ontario's publicly funded schools
- recognizes teachers as professionals who possess a specific knowledge base and a distinct skill set
- reflects the ongoing learning that teachers as professionals engage in throughout their careers
- acknowledges teachers as members of a community of highly educated, responsible and caring practitioners who are committed to the growth and development of Ontario students.

The OCT designation tells students, parents and the public that teachers' professional practice is guided and informed by ethical standards and standards of practice. It is also testament to the respect, trust, care and integrity Ontario's teachers and school and system administrators demonstrate with their students, parents and each other.

OCT holders are immediately recognized by other OCTs as fellow professionals who are committed to their own career growth and to advancing professionalism in teaching.

Most of Ontario's regulated professions – including engineers, chartered accountants, doctors and nurses – already have professional designations. Now, so do Ontario's teachers.



The OCT designation lets you know instantly that the member is guided by the ethical standards and standards of practice for Ontario teachers.

## Who can use OCT and who can't

Only Ontario College of Teachers members in good standing can use the designation. College members whose teaching certificates have been revoked or suspended as a result of disciplinary measures are also ineligible to use the OCT designation.

College members who fail to pay their fees and are therefore ineligible to teach in Ontario's publicly funded schools cannot use the designation.

### Correct usage

OCT is a registered trademark of the Ontario College of Teachers. Unauthorized use is strictly prohibited.

Certified College members in good standing have the right to use OCT on letterhead, business cards and professional materials.

### What happens if the designation is misused

The College's process for discipline will apply to members for alleged abuse of the OCT designation. Non-members who use the designation to falsify their professional standing will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

For more information on the designation, visit [www.oct.ca](http://www.oct.ca). To see the qualifications of every OCT holder, please go to [www.oct.ca](http://www.oct.ca) → Find a Teacher.

“OCT – or Ontario Certified Teacher – indicates that the holder possesses special skills and knowledge specific to the teaching profession. OCT holders commit to student achievement, ongoing self-growth and to Ontario’s ethical and practice standards for teachers.”

– Michael Salvatori, Registrar and Chief Executive Officer

For additional information:  
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