

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**DATE:** April 20, 2016  
**Cliff:** 187877

**PREPARED FOR:** Emilie Hillier, Executive Director, for **Decision** at the request of **Exam Administration and Marking Unit, Student Certification Branch**

**SUBJECT:** Central Marking locally-marked exams in 2016/17

**BACKGROUND:**

Three exams required for the 2004 Graduation Program (Language Arts 10, First Nations Studies 12, and Social Studies 11) are marked locally in schools. Two (Science 10 and Mathematics 10/12) are machine-marked, and one (Language Arts 12) is centrally-marked at the provincial level. Central marking is managed by the Student Certification branch which coordinates the process with specially-trained and contracted teachers.

With the announcement of changes to the current graduation program, Grade 10/11 provincial exams will no longer be required. Effective July 1, 2016 the only students requiring access to Grade 10/11 exams will include those who have completed the course but not yet written their exam, or those who choose to exercise their right to 're-write' an exam. (Approximately 4,048 students; see Appendix A).

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**DISCUSSION:**

Staff proposes central marking of all provincial exams administered in 2016/17, effective July 1, 2016.

Estimated additional cost for central marking of Grade 10/11 exams for 2016/17 is approximately \$75,000 (see Appendix A). This can be accounted for in part by using the \$50,000 budget allocation for exam monitoring (which is not required to take place in the 2016/17 school year).

Furthermore, the Learning Division currently distributes \$810,000 to school districts and independent schools for purposes of administration and marking FSA and Provincial Exams. Of that amount, \$138,000 is targeted to "exam related activities", a broad category known to include invigilation and marking of Grade 10/11 provincial exams.

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The Learning Division will be able to contribute up to \$40,000 toward this marking if necessary.

**OPTIONS:**

**Option 1 – Status Quo – Grade 10/11 exams are marked locally.**

Pros:

- No increased Ministry costs or resources.

Cons:

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- Schools will be putting energy and time into old exam routines rather than the new curriculum and assessments.
- Marking quality may be impacted.

**Option 2 – Grade 10/11 exams are marked centrally.**

Pros:

- Teachers can focus on the new curriculum and assessments.
- Additional cost can be covered out of the current budget.
- Provincial standards are maintained.

Cons:

- Cost will be approximately \$75,000 spread over two fiscal periods.

**RECOMMENDATION: Option: 2**

<b><u>Contact Information</u></b>  Student Certification Ph# 778-679-4543		<b>Approved Option: 2</b>
	<b>Manager's Initials LG</b>	<b>Melissa Horner obo Emilie Hillier Executive Director</b>
		<b>Date signed: May 26, 2016</b>

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Appendix A: Estimated numbers and cost calculation of potential Grade 10/11 exams written in 2016/17 school year.

Exam	Potential “owed”	Potential rewrites	Total count/# of exams	# of marking sessions per year	Initial fee (\$30 x # of sessions x # of markers)	Exam fee (\$8.00 x # of exams)	Total cost
CIV 11	34	46	80	3	\$30 x 3 x 2 =\$180	\$640	\$820
EFP 10	16	65	81	4	\$30 x 4 x 2 =\$240	\$648	\$828
EN 10	2763	3162	5925	6	\$30 x 6 x 4 =\$720	\$47,400	\$48,120
FNS 12	113	132	245	3	\$30 x 3 x 2 =\$180	\$1,960	\$2,140
FRALP 10	2	3	5	3	\$30 x 3 x 2 =\$180	\$40	\$220
SCH 11	37	21	58	3	\$30 x 3 x 2 =\$180	\$464	\$644
SS 11	1083	1543	2626	6	\$30 x 6 x 4 =\$720	\$21,008	\$21,728
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,048</b>	<b>4,972</b>	<b>9,020</b>		<b>\$2,400</b>	<b>\$72,160</b>	<b>\$74,560</b>

Each exam will be double-marked. Each marker will be paid \$30.00 for reading and grading up to and including the first three exams during any marking session and \$4.00 for each additional exam read and graded during the same marking session.