

## Teacher Certification Moving to QECO Frequently Asked Questions

1. Could a new rating statement from QECO move me down a category/group rating?

No. If you've been issued an OSSTF rating statement indicating group placement, a new QECO statement would NOT move you down to a lower rating. Your OSSTF rating statement is in effect until you provide an updated rating statement at a higher category (for those not yet at Group 4/Category A4). If your QECO rating is lower than your OSSTF rating, do not submit your QECO statement.

2. I just completed an AQ and want to be re-evaluated. I have completed an application through the QECO website. It now says the application is received but waiting on documentation. What does that mean?

In general, it takes a day or two for the QECO system to check on documents in the system. All OSSTF documents have been transferred to QECO, including transcripts. If the status does not change in a few days, contact QECO to determine what documentation is outstanding, if any. Please do not order transcripts without checking first.

3. Can someone working in an LTO receive an additional degree allowance with the change to QECO? My Board says I don't get one because I'm not a permanent teacher.

Whether or not you are entitled to an extra degree allowance is based on two things: whether or not the Master's degree was used to get you to Group 4 (or Category A4), and whether or not your local collective agreement language allows for the allowance. Check with your local OSSTF representatives and/or consult your collective agreement to see if you qualify.

4. How do I find out what I need to move to the next group/category rating with QECO?

Register on the QECO website and complete the online application at [apps.qeco.on.ca](https://apps.qeco.on.ca).

5. How do I register with QECO?

Registering with QECO is a quick process. Go to <https://applications.qeco.on.ca/>

6. I currently have a Category 4 OSSTF rating statement and have an additional degree allowance for my M.Sc. Do I need to apply for a QECO A4 to KEEP my additional degree allowance?

If you are OSSTF Group 4 and have an additional degree allowance, you do not have to do anything: the local collective agreement will be updated to indicate OSSTF or QECO, so you are all set. Don't forget to monitor your pay to ensure it remains accurate.

7. If a member has an old QECO rating statement does the Board have to accept it?

As long as it is a statement that was issued under the current QECO program (Program 5), it remains a valid QECO statement. They do not expire.

8. I recently completed the QECO application process. The result returned was staying in my A3 Category. However, I could not find the information on moving to the A4 Category. The previous process by OSSTF returned the same A3 result. However, it did provide in writing all my options to move to A4. Will the same options move me to A4?

QECO policy ensures that all previous upgrading is honoured. Additionally every QECO evaluation includes upgrading. To retrieve it, you need to log in, click the most recent application date and look under the Letters tab.

9. I have an Honours Specialist in Math. May I take another Honour Specialist? Would this new rating system change that result?

This change to QECO ratings will have no impact on your eligibility to take an AQ course. It is up to provincial regulations plus any additional Faculty of Education prerequisites that determine whether or not you have the requisite courses and grades to take an Honour Specialist.

10. Is there a difference in the QECO rating statements issued for work in the elementary or secondary panel? Are they the same statement now? If there is a difference, how can HR tell from which panel the statement applies to?

All teacher members are evaluated on the same charts. There is no difference between elementary and secondary pathways. At the time of the switch to QECO, there were some HR personnel unfamiliar with QECO, especially in cases where different HR employees processed statements for secondary and elementary panels. OSSTF/FEESO and QECO staff have communicated with boards where related misunderstandings occurred.

11. One of our OSSTF/FEESO members submitted a QECO rating statement to the board that indicated that she is in Category 5. I can't find anything on QECO's site that would explain this. What does this mean and how should the board process it?

There is no Category 5. QECO currently evaluates using Program 5. That may be where the confusion lies. Please contact QECO if this is an invalid statement.

12. Last year, I had a QECO evaluation completed as I had been working at the elementary level and was a member of ETFO. My evaluation came back from QECO as A4 as of December 2018. However, I started working at the secondary level and became a member of OSSTF. I had OSSTF complete an evaluation and it came back as A3. Now that OSSTF has switched to using QECO, would my previous evaluation by QECO stand from December 2018? Or are the new QECO evaluations for OSSTF members still being evaluated using OSSTF standards?

Your QECO rating is valid. Don't take it for granted that your HR division has a copy. You should submit a copy of your QECO A4 rating to your employer if you have not already done so. If the employer doesn't accept it because it isn't dated after the central agreement was ratified, contact your local OSSTF/FEESO office to advocate for you: they don't have expiry dates. OSSTF Certification regulations are no longer in effect, and all future evaluations will be based on QECO's regulations.

13. I would like to confirm which AQ I need to move from Category A3 to A4. I was thinking of taking an AQ this summer.

Members should contact QECO to ensure the course they are taking is the course needed for movement from Category to Category. OSSTF/FEESO employees do not have access to your transcripts or grades, so they cannot answer these types of questions. There is only one QECO application to complete to receive different services. Teachers who require services such as course approval and possible routes to advance to the next category are to complete an online application at [apps.qeco.on.ca](https://apps.qeco.on.ca).

14. I currently have a letter from OSSTF outlining a pathway for moving to Group 4. Is this letter still valid or will I have to start anew with the whole process through QECO? Will my letter from OSSTF indicating the path I could take to get to a higher group rating still count? If there are no longer OSSTF ratings, what happens to a member that received a letter listing their options to move up a Group? Are they honoured and given the next category, or start over with a new list of options to move up a QECO category?

OSSTF Certification letters indicating what you would have to do in order to upgrade to the next Group will be honoured. QECO will also provide QECO upgrading if needed. Register with QECO and request information as to the various paths to how to get to the next category. QECO has additional routes to Category A4 than OSSTF regulations had for Group 4. QECO also accepts AQs from any certified provider.

15. I have lost my rating statement and I have changed Boards. What do I do?

Ask QECO to issue you a duplicate statement. Go to [apps.qeco.on.ca](https://apps.qeco.on.ca) and register then click Start a New Application. In the Notes section prior to submitting, ask for a duplicate.

16. QECO offers services in French and English. Which language can I choose to get my evaluation?

Although QECO offers all services in both French and English, your employers need the statements to come to them in English. Please choose English as your language of preference in your online QECO account, but feel free to correspond with QECO in French or English.