Frequently Asked Questions

What is the AQ/ABQ subsidy?

The Ministry of Education, through the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF), is offering a subsidy to teachers who successfully complete an Additional Qualification (AQ) or Additional Basic Qualification (ABQ) course in Mathematics or Technology. Undergraduate Math courses that are a prerequisite for an AQ or ABQ are also eligible for the subsidy.

These subsidies apply to courses successfully completed on or after February 1, 2016.

How much is the subsidy?

The subsidy amount is up to $450, regardless of the course location or provider, and is paid directly to the teacher on successful completion of the course.

Who is eligible for a subsidy?

Any teacher employed in Ontario's publicly funded school system, who successfully completes a Math or Technology AQ or ABQ, is eligible for a subsidy. In order to receive the subsidy, OTF will need to receive a communication from either the AQ/ABQ provider or the individual teacher that includes the following four pieces of information:

- proof that the AQ/ABQ has been successfully completed;
- proof of membership in an Ontario teachers' federation (AEFO, ETFO, OSSTF or OECTA) (please use your Federation membership ID #);
- a declaration that no other subsidy has been accessed for the course, or if it has, the amount of said subsidy; and
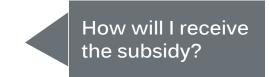- a current mailing address for receiving the subsidy cheque.

Teachers who complete an undergraduate Math course that is a prerequisite for a Math AQ or ABQ will also be eligible for a subsidy. To qualify for a subsidy, OTF will need to receive from you:

- proof that the Math course is a prerequisite for an AQ or ABQ;
- proof of membership in an Ontario teachers' federation (AEFO, ETFO, OSSTF or OECTA) (please use your Federation membership ID #);
- a declaration that no other subsidy has been accessed for the course, or if it has, the amount of said subsidy; and
- a current mailing address for receiving the subsidy cheque.

Please note: **If you are an OECTA member and applying for a Math AQ/ABQ subsidy, your application will be handled by OECTA. Please visit the OECTA website (www.oecta.on.ca).**

How will I receive the subsidy?

After OTF has received proof of successful completion and other required information identified in question 3 above, we will issue a cheque in your name for $450, which we will mail to the address provided by you.

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Are new teacher graduates eligible for a subsidy?

Only teachers who are employed in the publicly funded school system—whether full-time, part-time or occasional—are eligible for a subsidy.

Which courses are included in the list of AQs/ABQs that I can take to receive a subsidy?

- Mathematics, Primary and Junior - Part 1
- Mathematics, Primary and Junior - Part 2
- Mathematics, Primary and Junior - Specialist
- Mathematics, Grades 7 and 8
- Mathematics, Intermediate/Senior (ABQ)
- Mathematics, Honours Specialist

- Integration of Information and Computer Technology in Instruction, Part 1
- Integration of Information and Computer Technology in Instruction, Part 2
- Integration of Information and Computer Technology in Instruction, Specialist
- Teaching and Learning through e-Learning

Which courses are included in the list of AQs/ABQs that I can take to receive a subsidy?

You can take the above AQs/ABQs with any provider accredited by the Ontario College of Teachers to deliver a AQ/ABQ. You can ask the organization to transmit to OTF proof of your successful completion of the course.

Undergraduate courses must be shown to be prerequisites for an AQ or ABQ through a declaration by an AQ/ABQ provider.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long will the subsidies be available?

The Ministry of Education has provided a generous but limited amount of funds to enable this subsidy program. The subsidies will be provided on a first come, first served basis. This means that we cannot guarantee a subsidy to every teacher who applies, but we will do our best to let you know when the funding is coming to an end.

I have already received a subsidy from my school board for an AQ/ABQ I am taking. Am I still eligible for the full amount of the subsidy through OTF?

If you have received a subsidy from your school board or other source, you must let OTF know that this is the case, and you will receive a reduced subsidy. The reduced subsidy from OTF will depend on the amount received from your board. It is understandable that we want to make sure that everyone is eligible for the same subsidized amount and that no one ends up getting more than their fair share.

If I receive a subsidy, can I apply for a second subsidy to take another course later in the year?

Priority will be given to teachers who have not previously accessed the subsidy for an AQ, ABQ or Math undergraduate prerequisite course. That said, it may be possible to access a second subsidy later in the year if there are sufficient funds still available.

For more information, talk to your AQ/ABQ provider.
You can also contact OTF at 416.966.3424 or 1.800.268.7061.