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New math videos for parents

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In the board's first video, which is just under five minutes long, it notes that everyday activities like home budgeting, cooking and planning a trip all include aspects of math.

In fact, it's rare to find an occupation that doesn't use math in some way, Tina Salmini, a Halton public board superintendent of education, with responsibility for school program services elementary, says in the video, offering examples like an electrician, animator and photographer.

The education ministry introduced the Early Years to Grade 12 Renewed Math Strategy to support the provincial goal of having at least 75 per cent of elementary students achieve Level 3 or higher on provincial assessments in reading, writing and math.

This strategy is multi-faceted and data driven, mobilizing the latest research and lessons learned regarding effective math learning, teaching and assessment, said the Halton public board.

A key focus for the board has been aligning math instruction with the board's new Multi-Year Plan, released in September

2016. The Multi-Year Plan sets targets for students, staff and the overall system to be achieved by 2020.

While student achievement in the Halton public board continues to surpass that of the province, based on results released by the Ontario Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), there is still work to be done, said the board.

The Renewed Math Strategy is a response to provincial EQAO results in mathematics, which suggests a greater focus on math teaching and learning is needed for students in Ontario, said Salmini.

This is a partnership between teachers and parents, she added. We need to think of it in this context: we all know the value of reading to our children at night, so we also need to find ways to include math in various ways at home with that daily routine.

The Halton District School Board notes the most recent EQAO results show that students within the board continue to exceed provincial average scores.

To view the first part of the board's three-part math video series, go to <http://bit.ly/2pmelyQ>

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