



COMPUTERIZED
ASSESSMENTS
AND LEARNING

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Memo to: NCEA ACRE Participant

From: Kelly Wagner

Enclosed are the results of your administration of the NCEA's *Assessment of Catechesis Religious Education (ACRE)*. We hope that you will find the results to be a helpful part of your total ongoing program assessment.

Depending upon the makeup of your particular class, you will receive several reports, which provide you with result summaries for your group of students. A **TOTAL GROUP** report is provided to all users. This provides data on all students in the class who completed an ACRE answer sheet; a report on **RETURNING STUDENTS ONLY** is provided **if** there were six or more returning students in your program; a **CATHOLICS ONLY** report is provided if you had six or more Catholics in your group, and finally, a report on **NON-CATHOLICS ONLY** will be included if you had at least six non-Catholics in your class. In all cases, a **minimum of six students is required** in order for a full report (containing data on the **confidential** sections of ACRE as well as the religious knowledge section) to be provided. This is done in order to help ensure the confidentiality of their responses.

The reports for the 2001 edition NCEA ACRE Assessment include national normative performance information and the reporting of results by NCEA standards based performance categories. This information has been added to provide alternative interpretive perspectives on student performance. The national statistics are based on all students sitting for the NCEA ACRE assessment during baseline academic years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 (introduction/availability of the NCEA ACRE). The statistics were computed to represent the average between these years.

For those groups that took the 2013 edition NCEA IFG: ACRE Assessment, national normative performance information is shown as zero on your reports. These statistics will be available starting Fall 2015, after all groups have upgraded to the new version of the IFG: ACRE assessment.

Based on requests from many users and working with the NCEA, we have prepared and are distributing a summary of NCEA ACRE performance (assessment scores and Standards classifications) compiled based on where students receive their religious education instruction. These tables, which are attached, report results based on grade (5, 8, 9, 11 or 12), location (School or Parish program), and time of year when the NCEA ACRE was administered (Fall, Winter, Spring of academic year 2012-2013). Your feedback on this reporting feature is welcomed. These reports are attached to this letter.

In interpreting your reports, we suggest that you review the appropriate *Interpretation Manual*, tailored to the Assessment you gave (ACRE 2001 edition or IFG: ACRE 2013 edition). The Manual leads you through an in-depth study of your reports.

Thanks once again for your participation in NCEA ACRE. If we can be of assistance to you in clarifying elements of your report, please feel free to write to us at our address above.

Tables Reporting the Performance of Specific Groups on the NCEA ACRE

At the request of dioceses, parishes and schools that use NCEA ACRE, we have compiled separate reports for schools and parishes to show the performance of NCEA ACRE students who sat for the assessment last academic year (fall 2012 through summer 2013). For greater detail, the reports are given in a variety of ways to depict the performance of students assessed at grades 5, 8, 9, 11 and 12, and according to when these students sat for NCEA ACRE (Fall – August to November; Winter – December to February; Spring – March to June). Breakdowns are provided for school and parish programs separately. Many users requested that this information be separated to help them better sense their standing among like-religion programs. While the use of NCEA ACRE is intended to guide instructors to achieve standards of faith knowledge for all students regardless of venue (parish-based religion program or Catholic school), knowing where we stand as we move on this path can be re-assuring, informative, and motivating. We hope you find the tables that follow useful. If we can improve their benefits to you as a user, please let us know.

Statistical performance tables invariably have limitations. Therefore, please note the following as you examine and interpret the reports:

- NCEA ACRE is a voluntary program in some dioceses; required or mandated in others. The context in which assessments function has been shown to be related to performance. When interpreting these tables, remember that your students' motivation may impact total scores.
- Comparison to any group can be fragile at best, but is especially so when the numbers of students involved is very few (less than 400 to 500 at least). When you review your results, consider the stability of the comparison for your students' (when your scores are based on relatively few students, average scores can vary tremendously!) as well as the size of the group representing the "norm" (some are comprised of very few students assessed).
- Representativeness (how typical are your students, and how similar are your students to those in the norm) is a paramount standard when we compare the performance of one group (your class) to another group (results from all NCEA ACRE students assessed.). How well does the NCEA ACRE national assessed group "truly" represent all "national "students assessed"? To be candid, we cannot be sure. We will study this in the years ahead, but today, we are not certain. Thus, your direct comparison of your students' performance to those in these tables may not be a fair comparison.

What we stress and what is important is the notion of "absolute standards." By this we refer to the process that during the development phase of NCEA ACRE, national panels of catechetical leaders and educators worked collaboratively to determine credible "performance standards." How your students "score" in relation to these independent criterion benchmarks is reported with the return of your local results. While comparison can be informative, it is NOT the goal of these assessments. The goal is to assist Catholic youth in our instructional programs to achieve the highest levels of faith knowledge, information and understanding. These tables are offered to help you answer the question, "Are you doing all you can locally to achieve this goal?"

The national scores summarized in the following tables are average percent correct scores from the component sections of Part 1 of the NCEA ACRE Assessment. Also provided is the national percent of students scoring in the three NCEA ACRA Performance Standard categories (Needs Improvement, Proficient, and Advanced). How to interpret these score data is provided in the NCEA ACRE Interpretation Manual that is returned to you with your local results. Contact CA&L to aid you in understanding or interpreting the data tables. Contact NCEA to assist you in using the data to improve your religion programming.

Grade 5 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic School

When assessed	No of Student	Part I Total Score	Domain 1: God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit	Domain 2: Church – One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic	Domain 3: Liturgy & Sacraments	Domain 4: Revelation, Scripture & Faith	Domain 5: Life in Christ – Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	Domain 6: Church History	Domain 7: Prayer & Religious Practices	Domain 8: Catholic Faith Literacy	Mean % Correct								
											July thru Nov	3,859	69.9%	80.6%	74.8%	68.7%	79.0%	61.4%	59.0%
Dec thru Feb	29,245	73.2%	82.9%	76.5%	74.3%	81.7%	63.9%	62.6%	67.6%	76.0%									
Mar thru June	24,068	76.1%	84.4%	80.2%	76.6%	83.5%	66.6%	66.4%	71.0%	80.3%									
Annual Results	57,172	74.2%	83.4%	77.9%	74.9%	82.2%	64.9%	63.9%	68.7%	77.5%									

Performance of Grade 5 Students in Catholic Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	29.3%	57.6%	13.2%
	Number of Students	1,129	2,222	508
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	21.4%	58.4%	20.2%
	Number of Students	6,257	17,080	5,908
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	16.6%	55.6%	27.8%
	Number of Students	3,984	13,385	6,699
Annual Results	Percent in Category	19.9%	57.2%	22.9%
	Number of Students	11,370	32,687	13,115

Grade 5 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parishes

When assessed	No of Student	Part I Total Score	Domain 1: God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit	Domain 2: Church – One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic	Domain 3: Liturgy & Sacraments	Domain 4: Revelation, Scripture & Faith	Domain 5: Life in Christ – Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	Domain 6: Church History	Domain 7: Prayer & Religious Practices	Domain 8: Catholic Faith Literacy
July thru Nov	430	62.3%	73.9%	67.4%	60.6%	71.3%	55.6%	50.7%	50.8%	68.0%
Dec thru Feb	7,760	61.6%	73.1%	67.3%	60.7%	70.7%	55.0%	48.2%	51.4%	66.0%
Mar thru June	4,608	61.3%	71.6%	66.7%	59.9%	69.5%	54.7%	47.8%	51.8%	68.6%
Annual Results	12,798	61.5%	72.5%	67.1%	60.3%	70.2%	54.9%	48.2%	51.5%	67.3%

Performance of Grade 5 Students in Parishes

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	53.3%	40.5%	6.3%
	Number of Students	229	174	27
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	54.4%	40.7%	4.8%
	Number of Students	4,223	3,162	375
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	53.2%	42.1%	4.7%
	Number of Students	2,453	1,939	216
Annual Results	Percent in Category	54.0%	41.2%	4.8%
	Number of Students	6,905	5,275	618

Grade 8 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic Schools

When assessed	No of Student	Part I Total Score	Domain 1: God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit	Domain 2: Church – One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic	Domain 3: Liturgy & Sacraments	Domain 4: Revelation, Scripture & Faith	Domain 5: Life in Christ – Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	Domain 6: Church History	Domain 7: Prayer & Religious Practices	Domain 8: Catholic Faith Literacy
July thru Nov	6,065	74.2%	80.9%	73.0%	74.0%	80.1%	79.1%	61.5%	75.9%	68.9%
Dec thru Feb	30,878	75.6%	82.2%	74.7%	75.6%	80.2%	80.1%	64.2%	77.1%	70.8%
Mar thru June	23,608	82.6%	88.0%	81.5%	85.7%	85.6%	79.4%	77.7%	80.3%	82.3%
Annual Results	60,551	81.4%	87.1%	80.2%	84.7%	84.5%	78.4%	75.7%	79.4%	81.2%

Performance of Grade 8 Students in Catholic Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	20.8%	53.5%	25.7%
	Number of Students	1,262	3,245	1,558
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	19.8%	50.8%	29.4%
	Number of Students	6,125	15,679	9,074
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	14.0%	45.4%	40.5%
	Number of Students	3,316	10,728	9,564
Annual Results	Percent in Category	17.7%	49.0%	33.4%
	Number of Students	10,703	29,652	20,196

Grade 8 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parishes

When assessed	No of Student	Part I Total Score	Domain 1: God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit	Domain 2: Church – One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic	Domain 3: Liturgy & Sacraments	Domain 4: Revelation, Scripture & Faith	Domain 5: Life in Christ – Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	Domain 6: Church History	Domain 7: Prayer & Religious Practices	Domain 8: Catholic Faith Literacy
July thru Nov	478	62.4%	69.9%	60.5%	65.6%	63.3%	69.9%	46.4%	67.2%	56.2%
Dec thru Feb	7,795	45.5%	48.2%	43.7%	41.4%	51.0%	45.1%	40.1%	54.9%	39.8%
Mar thru June	5,128	62.5%	70.0%	60.8%	63.1%	65.5%	70.7%	44.6%	69.8%	55.6%
Annual Results	13,401	45.6%	48.2%	43.8%	41.6%	51.0%	45.0%	40.7%	54.9%	39.9%

Performance of Grade 8 Students in Parishes

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	46.7%	42.7%	10.7%
	Number of Students	223	204	51
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	52.9%	40.4%	6.7%
	Number of Students	4,122	3,151	522
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	51.4%	39.8%	8.8%
	Number of Students	2,635	2,042	451
Annual Results	Percent in Category	52.1%	40.3%	7.6%
	Number of Students	6,980	5,397	1,024

Grade 9 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic Schools

When assessed	No of Student	Part I Total Score	Domain 1: God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit	Domain 2: Church – One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic	Domain 3: Liturgy & Sacraments	Domain 4: Revelation, Scripture & Faith	Domain 5: Life in Christ – Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	Domain 6: Church History	Domain 7: Prayer & Religious Practices	Domain 8: Catholic Faith Literacy
July thru Nov	8,721	70.0%	77.2%	69.6%	69.1%	74.0%	74.3%	56.5%	73.5%	65.5%
Dec thru Feb	1,370	74.9%	82.6%	77.3%	73.6%	77.1%	77.6%	63.5%	75.5%	71.6%
Mar thru June	3,881	78.7%	84.2%	78.3%	77.1%	82.8%	82.9%	69.6%	79.4%	75.1%
Annual Results	13,972	74.0%	80.6%	74.0%	72.9%	77.7%	77.9%	62.5%	76.1%	69.9%

Performance of Grade 9 Students in Catholic Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	33.4%	43.7%	22.8%
	Number of Students	2,917	3,815	1,989
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	27.4%	43.7%	28.9%
	Number of Students	375	599	396
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	17.2%	39.7%	43.1%
	Number of Students	667	1,540	1,674
Annual Results	Percent in Category	28.3%	42.6%	29.1%
	Number of Students	3,959	5,954	4,059

Grade 9 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parishes

When assessed	No of Student	Part I Total Score	Domain 1: God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit	Domain 2: Church – One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic	Domain 3: Liturgy & Sacraments	Domain 4: Revelation, Scripture & Faith	Domain 5: Life in Christ – Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	Domain 6: Church History	Domain 7: Prayer & Religious Practices	Domain 8: Catholic Faith Literacy
July thru Nov	137	54.2%	61.7%	50.1%	56.3%	57.6%	63.5%	33.4%	64.7%	46.2%
Dec thru Feb	749	61.4%	69.7%	60.1%	62.4%	61.9%	69.4%	43.8%	69.3%	54.2%
Mar thru June	539	64.9%	71.6%	67.6%	66.5%	64.4%	71.5%	50.2%	69.3%	58.0%
Annual Results	1,425	62.3%	69.8%	62.5%	63.7%	62.6%	70.0%	45.7%	68.9%	55.3%

Performance of Grade 9 Students in Parishes

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	71.5%	27.7%	.7%
	Number of Students	98	38	1
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	57.5%	35.4%	7.1%
	Number of Students	431	265	53
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	46.8%	42.1%	11.1%
	Number of Students	252	227	60
Annual Results	Percent in Category	54.8%	37.2%	8.0%
	Number of Students	781	530	114

Grade 11 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic Schools

When assessed	No of Student	Part I Total Score	Domain 1: God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit	Domain 2: Church – One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic	Domain 3: Liturgy & Sacraments	Domain 4: Revelation, Scripture & Faith	Domain 5: Life in Christ – Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	Domain 6: Church History	Domain 7: Prayer & Religious Practices	Domain 8: Catholic Faith Literacy
July thru Nov	650	68.2%	75.3%	77.7%	75.3%	60.2%	61.9%	57.1%	71.0%	66.7%
Dec thru Feb	6,915	72.5%	80.0%	82.9%	79.1%	63.0%	65.2%	61.9%	77.7%	70.1%
Mar thru June	8,661	75.8%	81.8%	81.4%	77.4%	75.1%	76.0%	62.5%	78.7%	73.5%
Annual Results	16,226	75.9%	81.9%	81.6%	77.6%	75.0%	75.9%	62.6%	78.8%	73.8%

Performance of Grade 11 Students in Catholic Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	36.8%	44.6	18.6
	Number of Students	239	290	121
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	28.7%	49.1%	22.2%
	Number of Students	1,987	3,393	1,535
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	28.9%	47.6%	23.5%
	Number of Students	2,499	4,123	2,039
Annual Results	Percent in Category	29.1%	48.1%	22.8%
	Number of Students	4,725	7,806	3,695

Grade 11 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parishes

When assessed	No of Student	Part I Total Score	Domain 1: God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit	Domain 2: Church – One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic	Domain 3: Liturgy & Sacraments	Domain 4: Revelation, Scripture & Faith	Domain 5: Life in Christ – Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	Domain 6: Church History	Domain 7: Prayer & Religious Practices	Domain 8: Catholic Faith Literacy
July thru Nov	252	59.1%	66.0%	75.0%	69.0%	43.2%	55.3%	48.1%	63.3%	52.7%
Dec thru Feb	701	62.9%	71.2%	76.5%	70.8%	47.9%	60.3%	50.4%	70.8%	55.4%
Mar thru June	1,691	67.3%	69.8%	78.5%	74.6%	63.2%	71.4%	53.3%	74.7%	53.0%
Annual Results	2,644	67.5%	70.1%	78.7%	74.9%	63.3%	71.4%	53.8%	74.4%	53.7%

Performance of Grade 11 Students in Parishes

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	65.5%	32.1%	2.4%
	Number of Students	165	81	6
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	51.6%	40.2%	8.1%
	Number of Students	362	282	57
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	58.2%	38.3%	3.4%
	Number of Students	985	648	58
Annual Results	Percent in Category	57.2%	38.2%	4.6%
	Number of Students	1,512	1,011	121

Grade 12 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic Schools

When assessed	No of Student	Part I Total Score	Domain 1: God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit	Domain 2: Church – One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic	Domain 3: Liturgy & Sacraments	Domain 4: Revelation, Scripture & Faith	Domain 5: Life in Christ – Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	Domain 6: Church History	Domain 7: Prayer & Religious Practices	Domain 8: Catholic Faith Literacy
July thru Nov	6,746	71.3%	79.5%	81.5%	76.3%	63.2%	65.9%	60.9%	75.4%	67.5%
Dec thru Feb	4,329	74.2%	81.8%	83.2%	80.5%	64.6%	68.2%	64.3%	79.8%	71.3%
Mar thru June	6,560	74.6%	81.4%	83.5%	80.5%	65.6%	69.6%	65.1%	78.9%	72.0%
Annual Results	17,635	73.3%	80.8%	82.7%	79.0%	64.6%	68.0%	63.4%	77.8%	70.2%

Performance of Grade 12 Students in Catholic Schools

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	28.3%	51.2%	20.5%
	Number of Students	1,910	3,456	1,380
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	26.6%	48.3%	25.2%
	Number of Students	1,150	2,090	1,089
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	22.5%	48.0%	29.5%
	Number of Students	1,477	3,151	1,932
Annual Results	Percent in Category	25.7%	49.3%	25.0%
	Number of Students	4,537	8,697	4,401

Grade 12 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parishes

When assessed	No of Student	Part I Total Score	Domain 1: God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit	Domain 2: Church – One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic	Domain 3: Liturgy & Sacraments	Domain 4: Revelation, Scripture & Faith	Domain 5: Life in Christ – Personal Morality & Catholic Social Teaching	Domain 6: Church History	Domain 7: Prayer & Religious Practices	Domain 8: Catholic Faith Literacy
July thru Nov	6	62.7%	62.5%	85.0%	75.7%	57.5%	57.0%	46.3%	67.5%	50.0%
Dec thru Feb	97	66.1%	73.5%	79.4%	79.4%	51.0%	60.2%	55.3%	72.1%	57.6%
Mar thru June	84	59.6%	66.6%	72.6%	68.1%	42.3%	60.9%	51.6%	65.7%	49.3%
Annual Results	187	62.8%	69.4%	76.8%	73.9%	47.6%	60.2%	52.8%	68.8%	53.1%

Performance of Grade 12 Students in Parishes

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	66.7%	33.3	0.0%
	Number of Students	4	2	0
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	46.4%	43.3%	10.3%
	Number of Students	45	42	10
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	58.3%	32.1%	9.5%
	Number of Students	49	27	8
Annual Results	Percent in Category	52.4%	38.0%	9.6%
	Number of Students	98	71	18