

# Computerized Assessments and Learning, LLC

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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.

Note that revisions have been made in the current reports to 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 revised NCEA ACRE). The statistics were computed to represent the average between these years.

***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 2011-2012). Your feedback on this reporting feature is welcomed. These reports are attached to this letter.***

In interpreting your ACRE report, we suggest that you review the *Interpretation Manual*. 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 2011 through summer 2012). 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 (In Need of 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 CAL 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 Students	Part 1 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	4,028	72.0%	81.0%	75.2%	70.2%	80.6%	62.6%	60.5%	65.3%	74.7%
Dec thru Feb	29,477	74.0%	83.3%	77.5%	74.7%	82.1%	64.2%	64.4%	68.1%	76.5%
Mar thru June	24,431	76.0%	84.5%	80.8%	76.6%	83.6%	66.4%	66.5%	70.8%	79.3%
Annual Results	57,936	75.0%	83.6%	78.7%	75.1%	82.6%	65.0%	65.0%	69.0%	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	27.73%	56.36%	15.91%
	Number of Students	1,117	2,270	641
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	20.23%	58.28%	21.49%
	Number of Students	5,962	17,179	6,336
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	16.86%	56.15%	26.99%
	Number of Students	4,120	13,717	6,594
Annual Results	Percent in Category	19.33%	57.25%	23.42%
	Number of Students	11,199	33,166	13,571

**Grade 5 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parishes**

When assessed	No. of Students	Part 1 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	657	61.0%	70.8%	65.1%	59.9%	69.3%	55.2%	45.6%	51.0%	64.0%
Dec thru Feb	5,247	63.0%	73.4%	68.1%	61.8%	71.4%	55.8%	49.7%	52.9%	66.9%
Mar thru June	4,451	63.0%	73.3%	67.7%	60.9%	70.6%	56.4%	50.9%	52.9%	66.6%
Annual Results	10,355	63.0%	73.1%	67.6%	61.2%	70.9%	56.0%	49.8%	52.7%	66.5%

**Performance of Grade 5 Students in Parishes**

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	56.01%	40.79%	3.20%
	Number of Students	368	268	21
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	48.37%	45.05%	6.58%
	Number of Students	2,538	2,364	345
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	49.99%	43.16%	6.85%
	Number of Students	2,225	1,921	305
Annual Results	Percent in Category	49.55%	43.97%	6.48%
	Number of Students	5,131	4,553	671

**Grade 8 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic Schools**

When assessed	No. of Students	Part 1 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	5,519	74.0%	79.7%	72.6%	73.1%	79.5%	78.3%	61.2%	75.2%	68.0%
Dec thru Feb	28,758	76.0%	82.4%	75.4%	76.0%	80.5%	80.6%	64.1%	77.5%	70.4%
Mar thru June	24,268	79.0%	84.7%	79.0%	78.8%	83.7%	83.5%	68.4%	80.1%	74.0%
Annual Results	58,545	77.0%	83.1%	76.6%	76.9%	81.7%	81.6%	65.6%	78.4%	71.7%

**Performance of Grade 8 Students in Catholic Schools**

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	23.72%	54.05%	22.23%
	Number of Students	1,309	2,983	1,227
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	30.14%	51.91%	17.95%
	Number of Students	8,667	14,929	5,162
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	39.17%	46.51%	14.32%
	Number of Students	9,505	11,288	3,475
Annual Results	Percent in Category	33.28%	49.88%	16.85%
	Number of Students	19,481	29,200	9,864

**Grade 8 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parishes**

When assessed	No. of Students	Part 1 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	684	60.0%	67.5%	58.2%	61.4%	61.2%	67.4%	40.7%	69.6%	53.3%
Dec thru Feb	4,868	47.0%	54.6%	43.5%	41.0%	53.4%	44.8%	43.6%	56.7%	41.0%
Mar thru June	4,445	63.0%	69.8%	61.7%	64.0%	64.4%	70.2%	44.5%	69.7%	54.4%
Annual Results	9,997	47.0%	54.2%	43.6%	40.9%	53.0%	44.8%	43.3%	57.1%	40.6%

**Performance of Grade 8 Students in Parishes**

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	58.19%	33.70%	8.04%
	Number of Students	398	231	55
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	48.87%	43.32%	7.81%
	Number of Students	2,379	2,109	380
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	48.30%	42.63%	9.07%
	Number of Students	2,147	1,895	403
Annual Results	Percent in Category	49.25%	42.36%	8.38%
	Number of Students	4,924	4,235	838

**Grade 9 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic Schools**

When assessed	No. of Students	Part 1 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	10,057	70.0%	77.2%	71.3%	69.8%	74.2%	74.3%	56.7%	73.2%	65.4%
Dec thru Feb	974	74.0%	81.5%	73.3%	72.2%	79.4%	78.4%	62.5%	74.0%	70.4%
Mar thru June	5,022	77.0%	83.3%	76.5%	74.7%	81.7%	82.4%	66.3%	77.4%	74.0%
Annual Results	16,053	73.0%	79.7%	73.4%	71.9%	77.1%	77.3%	60.6%	74.7%	68.7%

**Performance of Grade 9 Students in Catholic Schools**

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	33.20%	45.36%	21.44%
	Number of Students	3,339	4,562	2,156
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	22.07%	44.76%	33.16%
	Number of Students	215	436	323
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	20.61%	40.62%	38.77%
	Number of Students	1,035	2,040	1,947
Annual Results	Percent in Category	28.59%	43.84%	27.57%
	Number of Students	4,589	7,038	4,426

**Grade 9 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parishes**

When assessed	No. of Students	Part 1 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	28	59.0%	68.7%	53.5%	62.4%	61.1%	69.3%	41.1%	59.4%	47.5%
Dec thru Feb	341	71.0%	79.3%	69.2%	71.3%	73.4%	79.5%	55.3%	79.3%	61.1%
Mar thru June	328	65.0%	71.0%	64.0%	64.7%	67.4%	73.8%	45.6%	73.2%	54.9%
Annual Results	697	67.0%	74.4%	65.3%	67.3%	69.4%	75.9%	49.3%	74.6%	56.9%

**Performance of Grade 9 Students in Catholic Parishes**

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	53.57%	42.86%	3.57%
	Number of Students	15	12	1
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	25.51%	53.08%	21.41%
	Number of Students	87	181	73
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	42.38%	47.26%	10.37%
	Number of Students	139	155	34
Annual Results	Percent in Category	34.58%	49.93%	15.49%
	Number of Students	241	348	108



**Grade 11 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic Schools**

When assessed	No. of Students	Part 1 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	1,250	65.0%	73.1%	77.1%	71.9%	57.2%	58.3%	55.7%	69.2%	61.9%
Dec thru Feb	6,614	71.0%	79.4%	81.8%	78.2%	62.4%	64.2%	60.2%	75.6%	69.0%
Mar thru June	7,904	72.0%	79.8%	52.2%	79.2%	63.7%	65.9%	62.3%	77.2%	69.3%
Annual Results	15,768	71.0%	79.1%	81.7%	78.3%	62.7%	64.7%	61.0%	75.9%	68.6%

**Performance of Grade 11 Students in Catholic Schools**

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	38.64%	45.44%	15.92%
	Number of Students	483	568	199
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	28.88%	50.03%	21.09%
	Number of Students	1,910	3,309	1,395
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	26.61%	49.11%	24.28%
	Number of Students	2,103	3,882	1,919
Annual Results	Percent in Category	28.51%	49.21%	22.28%
	Number of Students	4,496	7,759	3,513

**Grade 11 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parishes**

When assessed	No. of Students	Part 1 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	449	58.0%	64.9%	72.9%	65.7%	43.9%	54.2%	47.0%	64.6%	48.9%
Dec thru Feb	627	62.0%	73.3%	67.8%	70.5%	52.0%	63.9%	43.8%	67.9%	51.8%
Mar thru June	1,046	62.0%	70.1%	76.1%	72.2%	47.1%	57.9%	51.0%	69.9%	52.9%
Annual Results	2,122	62.0%	73.4%	67.7%	70.4%	52.1%	63.4%	44.1%	67.5%	51.9%

**Performance of Grade 11 Students in Parishes**

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	69.49%	26.95%	3.56%
	Number of Students	312	121	16
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	58.69%	36.52%	4.78%
	Number of Students	368	229	30
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	56.41%	37.76%	5.83%
	Number of Students	590	395	61
Annual Results	Percent in Category	59.85%	35.11%	5.04%
	Number of Students	1,270	745	107

**Grade 12 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Catholic Schools**

When assessed	No. of Students	Part 1 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	6,121	72.0%	79.4%	81.9%	76.9%	63.9%	66.1%	62.0%	77.0%	68.1%
Dec thru Feb	2,961	74.0%	81.2%	83.9%	80.7%	64.8%	67.5%	65.3%	79.1%	72.9%
Mar thru June	7,881	74.0%	80.4%	82.7%	80.2%	64.5%	68.8%	64.3%	78.5%	70.8%
Annual Results	16,963	73.0%	80.3%	82.7%	79.3%	64.4%	67.7%	63.8%	78.2%	70.4%

**Performance of Grade 12 Students in Catholic Schools**

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	27.07%	50.86%	22.07%
	Number of Students	1,657	3,113	1,351
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	21.31%	47.01%	31.68%
	Number of Students	631	1,392	938
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	26.04%	47.70%	26.27%
	Number of Students	2,052	3,759	2,070
Annual Results	Percent in Category	25.59%	48.72%	25.70%
	Number of Students	4,340	8,264	4,359

**Grade 12 NCEA ACRE Scores of Students in Parishes**

When assessed	No. of Students	Part 1 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	53	62.0%	66.2%	77.6%	65.5%	50.6%	62.6%	48.9%	72.3%	48.9%
Dec thru Feb	132	68.0%	75.8%	80.4%	76.5%	54.8%	66.7%	54.8%	73.8%	59.9%
Mar thru June	37	78.0%	87.1%	87.1%	87.6%	68.7%	70.7%	68.5%	81.6%	75.4%
Annual Results	222	68.0%	75.7%	81.0%	76.0%	56.3%	66.5%	55.9%	74.8%	60.2%

**Performance of Grade 12 Students in Parishes**

When assessed	Results	Performance Category		
		Needs Improvements	Proficient	Advanced
July thru Nov	Percent in Category	62.26%	28.30%	9.43%
	Number of Students	33	15	5
Dec thru Feb	Percent in Category	41.67%	46.97%	11.36%
	Number of Students	55	62	15
Mar thru June	Percent in Category	16.22%	54.05%	29.73%
	Number of Students	6	20	11
Annual Results	Percent in Category	42.34%	43.69%	13.96%
	Number of Students	94	97	31