

Facts Educators Need to Know About the New Student Faith Assessment Tool, “NCEA IFG: ACRE edition”

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NCEA ACRE (Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education) has a new name and is nearing the end of a two-year revision process. As part of the revision process, ACRE will be known as the acronym: “NCEA IFG: ACRE edition.” NCEA stands for National Catholic Educational Association. IFG stands for Information for Growth and is also the name of NCEA’s adult faith assessment tool. ACRE stands for Assessment of Children/Youth Religious Education.

Below are some important things for teachers, parish catechetical leaders, principals, and diocesan leaders to know about the revision:

- Plan now to put into your 2013-14 budget the cost of new assessment booklets. For NCEA members, booklets will cost \$1.20 each, the same price as now. For non-members, the cost of booklets is \$1.55 each.
- Costs will remain the same for all other assessment materials, such as answer sheets and shipping. Answer sheets are \$2.75 for members and \$3.50 for non-members. The cost of scoring and generating reports is built into the price of the answer sheets. The administration and interpretation manuals are sent free of charge when an order is placed.
- ACRE levels two and three (for eighth- or ninth-graders and eleventh- or twelfth-graders) align fully with the USCCB document, *Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development*

of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age. The current version already addresses more than 80% of the major areas of the *Framework*.

- For the cognitive section of the revised assessment, the number of domains, or areas of questioning in core faith concepts, will change from eight domains to six domains. These six domains match the six tasks of catechesis found in both the *General Directory for Catechesis* and the *National Directory for Catechesis*. The six domains/tasks of catechesis are:
 - 1) Knowledge of the Faith;
 - 2) Liturgical Life;
 - 3) Moral Formation;
 - 4) Prayer;
 - 5) Communal Life and
 - 6) Missionary Spirit.
- The revision maintains developmentally appropriate expectations of cognitive and affective maturation across the lifespan, so that rigor increases from fifth-grade through twelfth-grade.
- The administration and interpretation manuals will be rewritten to make them more practical and user-friendly. The interpretation manual will include tips for aligning 2001-edition results with 2013-edition results.

- A Spanish-language version of the revised assessment tool will be available, as it is now.
- NCEA understands that budgets are tight and that some schools and parishes that use two or three levels of ACRE may have difficulty in affording new booklets for all levels in one year. Accordingly, the 2013-2014 school year (from September 2013 to June 2014) will be a transitional year, where NCEA will score both the old (2001) and revised (2013) assessment tools. ***However, booklets for the old ACRE (2001) will only be sold through July 31, 2013, so order them now if needed.***
- Beginning July 1, 2014, only the revised assessment tool will be scored. We urge schools and parishes to plan now to adopt the revised assessment in 2013 for one or two levels, and to budget in 2014 to complete the purchase of new booklets, if needed.
- Information for Growth (IFG), NCEA's assessment tool for adults, is not affected by the ACRE revision process. It was revised in 2006 and costs \$6.50/per person for members. It is a great tool to help teachers, catechists, parents and other adults

understand their own level of faith knowledge.

- An online version of an ACRE-type student assessment tool is still a few years away. IFG for adults is available online now.
- The ordering, processing and generating of reports will continue to be handled by our partner, Computerized Assessments & Learning (CA&L), located in Lawrence, Kansas.

Further Support

NCEA Religious Education staff will continue to be available for support. Please contact us with any questions, and we will be happy to help. You may reach staff members in the NCEA Religious Education Department by email (reled@ncea.org) or phone (800 711-6232).

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