



NCEA

An introduction for parents

What is NCEA?

- NCEA stands for **National Certificate of Educational Achievement.**
- NCEA is the qualification your son will be working towards in Years 11 to 13.
- This year he will be working towards NCEA Level 1.



How does NCEA work?

- NCEA is gained by building up “credits” for each assessment in each subject students are studying.
- To gain **NCEA Level 1**, a student must obtain **80 credits or more** at any level, including **Literacy and Numeracy credits**.
- If a student passes an assessment, they gain the credits associated with it, which is put towards their NCEA total.

What are Literacy and Numeracy?

- Students must also gain Literacy and Numeracy credits:
 - 10 credits for Literacy
 - 10 credits for Numeracy
- These credits are gained primarily in English and Mathematics, but can also be gained in other subject areas.
- Literacy and Numeracy credits are **included** in the 80 credit total, not in addition to.



How are students assessed?

- A student's knowledge, skill or performance is measured through **assessments** in each subject.
- Assessments can be **internally** or **externally assessed**:
 - **internals** are tests, activities or assignments which are usually assessed by their subject teacher.
 - **externals** are end of year exams or portfolios which are usually assessed by NZQA.

How many credits per subject?

- Most subjects offer between 18-24 credits. This means that students have the opportunity, if they were to pass every standard, to gain approximately 120 - 140 credits from all their subjects.
- Students should be encouraged to attempt every standard on offer to them to the best of their ability.
- Each assessment is worth between 2 and 12 credits.



Levels of Achievement

- Each assessment can be passed at **Achieved, Merit** or **Excellence** level.
- Each level relates to the student's level of understanding or performance.
- Almost all students are capable of passing at Merit and Excellence level, and **this should be their aim.**

Certificate Endorsements

- If a student gains **50 credits at Excellence** level, their NCEA Certificate will be **endorsed with Excellence**.
- If they gain **50 credits at Merit** (or a mix of **Merit and Excellence**), their NCEA Certificate will be **endorsed with Merit**.
- Every student should be aiming for a Merit or Excellence Certificate endorsement.



Course Endorsements

- If a student gains **14 or more** credits at **Merit and/or Excellence** in one course (subject), they will gain a **Merit or Excellence endorsement** in that course (subject).
- At least 3 credits must be from **externally** assessed standards and 3 credits from **internally** assessed standards in that course.*

* some exceptions apply (Religious Education and Physical Education which are fully internally assessed with no externals available)



Where can I get more information?

- Talk to your son's Head of Year, Academic Tracker or Homeroom Teacher.
- Visit www.nzqa.govt.nz/audience-pages/parents/
- View **videos** explaining NCEA here in English, Te Reo, Samoan, Tongan, Cook Island Maori, Niuean and New Zealand Sign Language here:
<https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/understanding-ncea/how-ncea-works/video/>
- View the **NCEA app by NZQA** that is available in English, Te Reo, Samoan, Tongan, Cook Island Maori, and Niuean, on iOS or Android, found here
www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/understanding-ncea/mobile-app/

