



Office of Catholic Schools Diocese of Madison

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Principals
FROM: Michael Lancaster
SUBJECT: ACRE Test - Change in requirement
DATE: January 20, 2020

Catholic schools have been administering the ACRE since 2010, while parishes began using the assessment in 2013.

As we approached ten years of using this tool, the Office of Catholic Schools and the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis reviewed the effectiveness of the ACRE in improving religious instruction in parishes and schools. It was concluded that, while certain parishes and schools are using the ACRE effectively, the overall impact of the assessment is less than what we had hoped, and many parishes and schools are not deriving its full benefit. Therefore, a recommendation was made to Bishop Hying that the ACRE no longer be required, but rather be made optional for parishes and schools.

Bishop Hying has considered and accepted this recommendation, effective immediately. The ACRE is no longer required, but is now optional for all Catholic schools and parish religious education programs.

As the ACRE is still a valid instrument for assessing the effectiveness of school and parish religious curriculum, parishes and schools that have been using the ACRE to improve their catechetical programs are encouraged to continue doing so. The official school assessment window scheduled for March 2020 has been removed from the calendar, so schools and parishes that wish to continue using the ACRE may administer it to students at any time of year.

Please feel free to contact the Office of Catholic Schools or the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis with any questions.