

# OFFICE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

## Diocese of Jackson



In November 2015, schools in the Catholic Diocese of Jackson took part in ACT Aspire testing. ACT Aspire measures students' progress toward college and career readiness. The scale scores for each subject are measured against the ACT Readiness Benchmarks to identify whether students are on target to meet those benchmarks by the time they take the ACT. Every school in the diocese participated in subject area testing for English, Reading, and Math; some of our schools also opted to participate in Science and/or Writing testing.

Because 2015 was our first year to take ACT Aspire, our results will serve as a baseline from which to measure future progress for each student, for each school, and for our diocese and cannot be compared to past performances on the Stanford Achievement Test. Three scoring ranges are used for each subject to further identify how student performance relates to the Benchmarks: *Ready*, *Close*, and *In Need of Support*. When you receive your student's score report from his/her school, it will include your student's score, how he/she compares to others in his/her grade, his/her strengths, and where he/she can still improve.

Our students exceeded the national percentage of 3rd through 10th graders who are Ready for the ACT in English. Our 5th through 10th grade students exceeded the national percentage of those who are Ready for the ACT in Reading, and our 3rd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 9th, and 10th grade students exceeded the national Ready percentage in Science. In addition, the percentage of our students who are Ready and Close to meet ACT benchmarks when they take that test far exceeded the national averages in every subject area for every grade tested. This is to be commended and reflects the efforts of the excellent teachers and leaders in the Catholic Diocese of Jackson. While we still have progress to make, particularly in the areas of Math and Writing, the good news is that the specific information provided by the ACT Aspire results for each school and each child creates a road map for continuous growth and improvement.

We are proud of our students, teachers, and school leaders for an excellent baseline performance on this new, rigorous assessment. These scores reflect the excellence found in each of our schools each day and will help us continue to grow that excellence to higher standards each year.

### Diocese of Jackson ACT Aspire Readiness Score Comparison 2015-2016 Fall 2015 Testing

	English		Reading		Science		Math		Writing	
	Diocese	Nation								
<b>Diocese of Jackson</b>	79%	67%	41%	37%	36%	33%	33%	38%	26%	29%
<b>Grade 3</b>	71%	73%	26%	34%	30%	29%	37%	50%	20%	16%
<b>Grade 4</b>	75%	69%	33%	37%	36%	35%	29%	45%	27%	19%
<b>Grade 5</b>	79%	68%	35%	33%	34%	37%	22%	40%	25%	26%
<b>Grade 6</b>	81%	68%	51%	41%	54%	38%	43%	43%	40%	42%
<b>Grade 7</b>	89%	71%	45%	35%	31%	33%	35%	34%	10%	26%
<b>Grade 8</b>	83%	73%	52%	45%	35%	34%	28%	31%	18%	26%
<b>Grade 9</b>	76%	60%	50%	38%	30%	30%	38%	35%	50%	35%
<b>Grade 10</b>	81%	63%	53%	34%	32%	31%	27%	32%	51%	45%