



NCEA &  
the Whānau

# NCEA - National Certificate of Educational Achievement

## How does NCEA work?

- **What is Level 1, 2 and 3**

Level 1 is mainly completed in Year 11 (5th form)

Level 2 is mainly completed in Year 12 (6th form)

Level 3 is mainly completed in Year 13 (7th form)

- From Year 11 - 13 students study a number of courses or subjects. In Year 11 students take six subjects, they must take English and Maths.
- In Year 12 students again take 6 subjects, 1 of which must be English.
- In Year 13 students take 5 subjects.
- If students are unsure of what they would like to do when they leave Kaipara College they should try and take a mix of subjects to ensure that they do not cut down on career pathways.

## How standards are achieved?

As students study new topics, their teachers will explain what will be assessed and how. Teachers ensure that students are prepared for assessment. If students pass the assessment, the standard is achieved.

Assessments measure what a student knows or can do against the registered criteria of a standard in courses they study. If they meet the criteria, they achieve the standard, and gain credits towards a qualification.

Some standards are internally assessed by teachers during the year. Other standards are assessed externally by NZQA at the end of the year e.g. in an exam or by a portfolio of work.

### Internal assessment

Internal assessments are used to assess skills and knowledge that cannot be tested in an exam, e.g. speeches, research projects and performances.

### External assessment

Most external assessments are by examination at the end of the year. For some subjects, e.g. Technology or Visual Arts, students submit a portfolio of their work at the end of year.



## What are the assessment grades?

The grades that a student can earn depend on the type of standard being assessed.

For **unit standards** all grades may be available, but usually there are just two grades:

- Achieved (A) for meeting the criteria of the standard
- Not achieved (N) if a student does not meet the criteria of the standard

For **achievement standards**, there are four grades:

- Achieved (A) for a satisfactory performance
- Merit (M) for very good performance
- Excellence (E) for outstanding performance
- Not achieved (N) if students do not meet the criteria of the standard

## What happens if a student doesn't achieve a standard?

Schools may allow students to have further assessment opportunities for internally assessed standards later in the year. Students can have up to one further assessment per standard per year.

There is only one opportunity each year to achieve an externally assessed standard. If a student fails to achieve externally assessed standards, they may repeat the assessment the following year. Students who were sick at the time of the exams may apply for a derived grade for individual standards

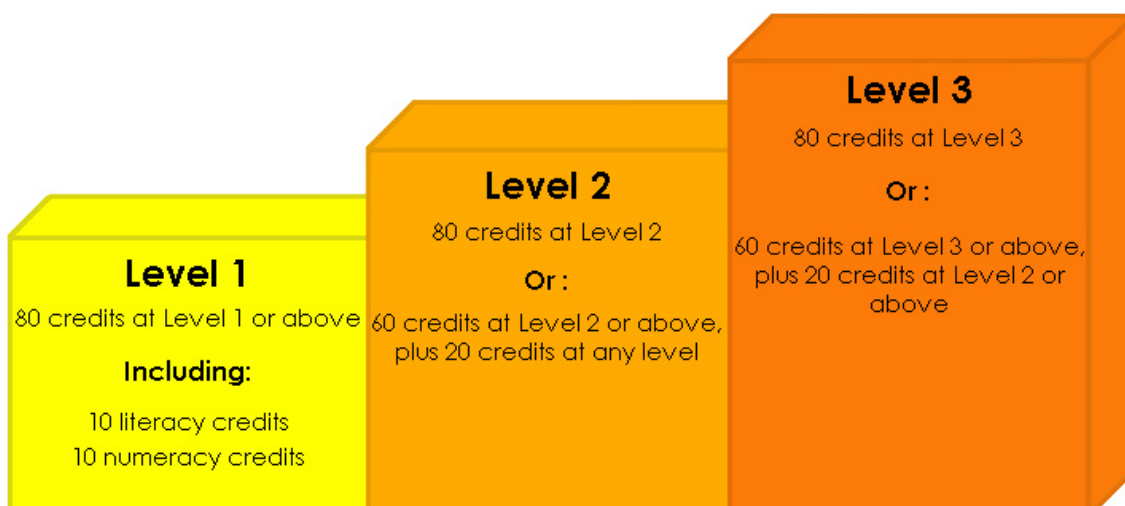
When a student achieves a standard, they gain a number of credits. Students must achieve a certain number of credits to gain an NCEA certificate. You can gain Achieved, Merit or Excellence (or a Not Achieved).

## What are credits?

Each achievement standard and unit standard is worth a certain number of credits. When a student achieves a standard, they earn the amount of credits that standard is worth.

A single achievement standard is usually worth three to four credits. A single school subject usually has five to eight achievement standards. Depending on the school, the usual number of credits needed per subject is 18 to 25.

## How many credits do you need?



## **The importance of NCEA for student's future**

NCEA prepares students for a wide range of future directions. It is designed to meet the learning needs of all students. NCEA qualifications will allow them to go to further study or a job and/or on the job or industry training

## **What is an endorsement?**

If your child achieves at a level well above the 'minimum' level for Achieved they can have their course or NCEA endorsed with Merit or Excellence to reflect high achievement. If your child gains 50 or more credits at Excellence overall their NCEA certificate will be endorsed with Excellence. If they have gained 50 credits in total at Merit or Excellence, they will be awarded a Merit endorsed certificate.

Students are able to have each course (subject) they take endorsed as well. They need to get 14 credits at Excellence in each subject for an Excellence course endorsement (these credits need to come from a mix of internal and external credits). For a Merit endorsement they need 14 credits at Excellence and / or Merit credits (again from a mix of internal and external credits). Each student should aim to get as many course endorsements as possible.

All this information is printed on the student's Record of Learning certificates, available from NZQA.

## **What are numeracy and literacy credits?**

Literacy is reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Numeracy is number, measurement and statistical skills.

Literacy and Numeracy requirements must be met to achieve NCEA Level 1. 10 credits for literacy and 10 credits for numeracy.

## **The importance of numeracy and literacy**

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What will give you Level 1, 2, 3

### **How many credits does my child have at the moment?**

To how many credits your child currently has please visit the KAMAR stand

### **Further information**

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications/ncea/understanding-ncea/how-ncea-works/>

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