

**Nau mai, haere
mai!**

NCEA Information Evening

An essential guide for parents and
students



Welcome

- What is NCEA?
- Key updates for 2025.
- What students and parents need to know.
- Q&A - A chance for you to ask any burning questions

Te WAKA o Kaipara: Eke Panuku, Eke Tangaroa
Te WAKA o Kaipara: Navigate to Success



Presented by **Bernard Coleman**
Deputy Principal -
Student Achievement

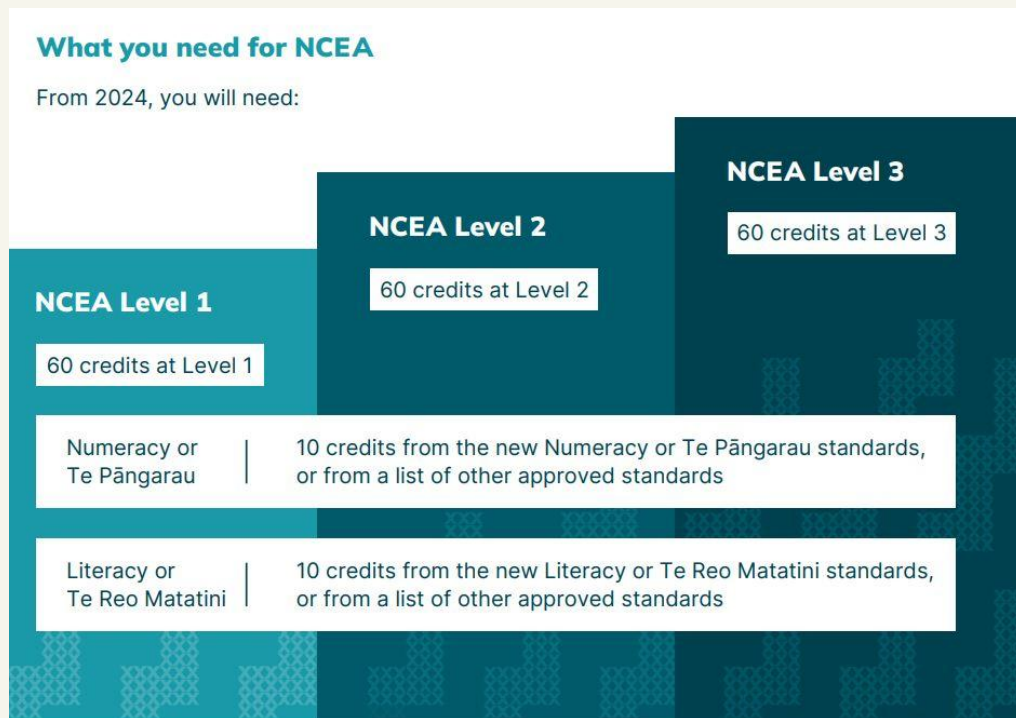
What is NCEA?

- **NCEA is the National Certificate of Educational Achievement** – NZ's main secondary school qualification (Levels 1, 2, 3 in Years 11–13). NCEA is internationally recognised.
- **How it works**
 - Students take **courses** (e.g. 1 ENG - Y11/Level 1 English) assessed via **standards** to earn **credits** towards NCEA Levels 1, 2 and/or 3.
 - Each standard is worth a set **number** of credits.
 - Standards are either **Achievement Standards** or **Unit Standards**.



NCEA 2025 – What's Changed?

- **60 credits per level** instead of 80.
- **New Literacy & Numeracy co-requisites**
 - 10 credits in each, separate from subject credits.
- **Fewer, larger Achievement Standards**
 - Typically 4 per subject.
- **More balanced mix of Internal & External assessments for NCEA Level 1**
- **No credit carry-over between levels.**



Literacy and Numeracy Co-requisites

- **10 Literacy credits + 10 Numeracy credits** are required for NCEA.
 - Must be achieved through new literacy/numeracy tests **OR** by completing approved standards (until 2027).
 - The literacy/numeracy tests do not have Achieved/Merit/Excellence grades – just Achieved/Not Achieved.
- Schools will offer Literacy/Numeracy assessments from Year 9 or 10 onward. Students can attempt these multiple times – there's no limit on retakes
- It's recommended to sit them when ready (usually by Year 10 or 11).

Achievement Standards vs. Unit Standards

- **Standards** describe different areas of knowledge and skills and are worth credits.
 - **Achievement Standards** – Used in most subjects, graded Achieved/Merit/Excellence.
 - **Unit Standards** – Mostly vocational (for example Hospitality and Carpentry), Achieved/Not Achieved (some have Merit/Excellence).
 - Both types of standards earn credits but **only Achievement Standards count toward endorsements and University Entrance requirements.**



Standards

Your learning in each course is assessed against standards.



Credits

Each standard is worth a certain number of credits.

Internal versus External Assessment

- **Internal = Assessed during the year** (projects, assignments, tests).
- **External = Assessed in exam conditions at the end of the year.**
- **Most subjects at NCEA Level 1 now have 2 internal + 2 external standards.**

NCEA Level 1 English standards	
Demonstrate understanding of how context shapes verbal language use	Demonstrate understanding of specific aspects of studied text
91924	91925
5 credits	5 credits
Internally assessed	Externally assessed

University Entrance (UE) Requirements

What is UE? It's the minimum standard required to enroll in a New Zealand university. Universities require UE for admission to degree courses (along with any specific course prerequisites):

- **NCEA Level 3 required** (60 Credits at NCEA Level 3 or higher with Lit/Num Corequisite met).
- **Three approved subjects with 14+ credits each at Level 3.**
 - UE-approved subjects include most traditional academic subjects e.g. English, Maths, Sciences, History, Art, Physical Education and also new ones like Te Ao Haka.
- **UE Literacy = 5 Reading + 5 Writing credits (Level 2 or higher).**
- **UE Numeracy = 10 credits (Level 1 or higher).**

Vocational Pathways & Trades

- **Vocational Pathways connect NCEA to careers in trades & industries.**
- We offer a number of **unit standards-based courses** like Carpentry, Automotive Engineering, Hospitality, and Tourism.
- Our students can also apply to participate in the **Gateway program**.
- **NCEA Level 2 + industry experience** can lead directly into apprenticeships.

Endorsements & Scholarships

- **Course Endorsements** (14+ credits in a subject at Achieved, Merit or Excellence).
- **Certificate Endorsements** (50+ credits at Achieved, Merit or Excellence).
- **Scholarship Exams** (extra challenging exams for top performing students).
Students are awarded \$500 per scholarship.

Tips for Student Success

Stay Organised:

- Keep track of all internal assessment dates and plan ahead.
- Use a planner or digital calendar (like Google Calendar) to note when assignments are due or tests are happening.
- Avoid last-minute rush by breaking study tasks into smaller chunks.

Effective Study Habits:

- Study smart – short, focused study sessions (e.g. 30-50 minutes with 10-15 min breaks) are more effective than marathon cramming.
- Make summary notes, use flashcards, or teach concepts to a friend.
- Regular revision throughout the year helps retain knowledge for externals.

Tips for Student Success

Balance Internals & Externals:

- Don't neglect exam prep because you're busy with internals (or vice versa).
- Try to finish internals early or on time so you can switch to exam revision in Term 3/4.
- Use past NCEA exam papers for practice – they are available on NZQA's website – to get familiar with question styles.

Seek Help & Feedback:

- If unsure about a topic or an assessment, ask teachers – they are there to help.
- Get feedback on drafts for internals (where allowed).
- Consider study groups with friends or tutoring if needed.
- Many faculties offer tutorials, study guides, and exam workshops – take advantage of these.

Tips for Student Success

Wellbeing Matters:

- Manage time to avoid burnout – include breaks, exercise, and enough sleep in your routine. Staying healthy and maintaining hobbies or downtime will keep your mind fresh
- Around exam time, try to keep stress low by being well-prepared and keeping perspective (NCEA is important, but one low mark is not the end of the world).

How Parents Can Support Their Children

Understand the System:

- Take time to learn how NCEA works (levels, credits, co-requisites, etc.) so you can better support your student
- Attend school NCEA information evenings or read resources for parents.
- Being informed means you can help your teen make good decisions (like subject choices or managing credits).

How Parents Can Support Their Children

Encourage Literacy & Numeracy Practice:

- Given the new focus on core skills, encourage activities that build reading, writing and maths.
- For example, discuss news articles or books with your child to build comprehension, or involve them in real-life maths (budgeting, NRL Fantasy, measuring for recipes, etc.).
- If they haven't passed the lit/num tests yet, help them access practice tests online or extra help through their subject teachers and Google Classrooms.

How Parents Can Support Their Children

Provide a Study-Friendly Environment:

- Ensure your child has a suitable place and time to study.
- Help them create a study schedule (perhaps a wall chart) with key dates and study times
- Minimise distractions during study time (for instance, establish phone/device rules if needed).
- Celebrate their sticking to a plan – positive reinforcement helps.

How Parents Can Support Their Children

Monitor Progress (without micromanaging):

- Regularly ask how they're doing with credits.
- Ask students to share their NCEA trackers with you.
- You might sit down together each term to review which credits are achieved and which are still pending.
- We will provide end of term updates but you can also use the school's portal.
- If you are at all concerned, make contact with your student's whānau teacher.
- Acknowledge milestones ("Great, you've already got 40 credits!").

How Parents Can Support Their Children

Support and Encourage:

- Be their cheerleader. Encourage a growth mindset – emphasise effort and improvement over just final marks.
- When things don't go well (maybe a failed standard or a bad exam), help them refocus on what can be learned from it rather than seeing it as a catastrophe.
- Normalise the fact that setbacks happen, and resilience is key.
- Keep an eye on stress levels: during busy periods, maybe help out by easing household chores or making sure they get a break.
- If your child is very anxious, let them know you're proud of them no matter what, and that NCEA results don't define their worth as a person.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What if my student doesn't pass the new Literacy/Numeracy test?**
 - They can resit - and should keep trying until they do.
- **Is NCEA Level 1 necessary? Some say you can skip it.**
 - Technically, students don't need a Level 1 certificate to get Level 2 or 3 (some schools do a combined Year 11-12 program). However, Level 1 provides a foundation and confidence.
- **Does fewer credits (60 vs 80) make NCEA easier?**
 - Not necessarily. The standard of work expected is actually higher in some cases (because each standard covers more content now). The separate literacy/numeracy requirement also raises the bar for basic skills.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **If my student doesn't get enough credits, do they have to retry all the standards again and repeat the year?**
 - No. Once students have earned their achievement standards and credits, they are theirs to keep. If they earn credits at a higher level they also count towards the lower level as well.
- **My child isn't sure if they should try Scholarship exams – what do you advise?**
 - Scholarship is great for extension if your child is excelling in a subject and enjoys an extra challenge. It can earn them recognition and money for uni. But it does require extra study (on top of Level 3 work) and resilience, because failing to get it is common (only ~3% get Scholarship per subject).



Thank you! Any questions?

- If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate ask.
- If you would like further information (these slides / links to NZQA and so on) please write your name on the A4 Sheet at Reception OR email me directly at bcoleman@kaipara.school.nz



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