

# THE MISSION: COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

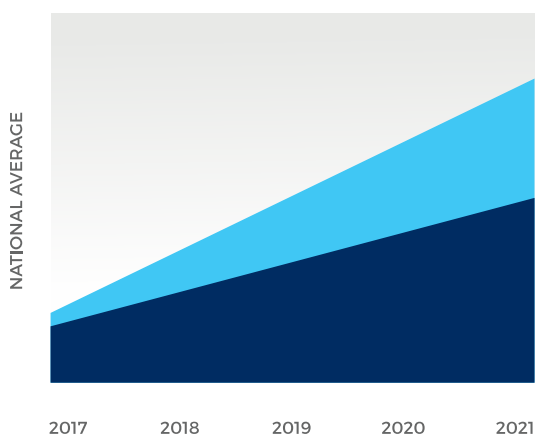
“From a parent’s perspective, because it has the ACT name, parents feel a strong connection. They look at the ASPIRE reports more, as a result of that linkage.”

Kimberlee Gazzolo, Superintendent, Diocese of Lake Charles

The Diocese of Lake Charles consists of seven schools total – six elementary and one high school – serving 2,600 students in Southern Louisiana. In adopting the Common Core standards, Superintendent Kimberlee Gazzolo knew the district needed a new approach to assessment and curriculum development. That’s when they turned to ACT.

## The Path Ahead: Above Average Growth

Gazzolo hopes to achieve 10 points above the average in the next three to five years.



### MORE STUDENTS TESTED

- 2015-16 - 1479 testers
- 2016-17 - 1504 testers

### LONGITUDINAL GROWTH

When tracking students longitudinally, growth has been seen in:

- Reading scores
- Science scores



ACT® Aspire® provided Gazzolo and the Diocese of Lake Charles with an assessment tool that reinforced skill proficiency and informed curriculum development.

When the Diocese of Lake Charles adapted their mathematics and English standards to Common Core, Superintendent Gazzolo realized that there would be an increase in test complexity. As they had previously used the SAT, they needed a new assessment system that could inform curriculum and focus resources. They also needed an assessment in Grades 9–10. In keeping with their mission of college and career readiness, the Diocese of Lake Charles moved forward with ACT® Aspire.®

**“We liked that it was aligned with the ACT [test] and that it helped kids get ready for the next level — it fit that mission of being college and career ready. It was a better indicator for us.”**

Kimberlee Gazzolo, Superintendent, Diocese of Lake Charles

ACT Aspire is given to 1,475 students in Grades 3–10. The breakdown in reporting allows teachers to isolate the individual skills that make up a score. At Diocese of Lake Charles, this data helps teachers improve the writing curriculum. The skill proficiency and predictive scores allow teachers to track individual student growth making it easier to identify students for special services, accommodations, and modifications. It also highlights gifted students who may need additional support.

ACT Aspire provides a “true picture” of skill proficiency and academic achievement, ensuring that standardized test scores are in line with classroom instruction and grades. As a result, teachers are also talking about data more. In addition to informing curriculum development and grading practices, ACT Aspire is helping Diocese of Lake Charles administrators focus professional development. With the connection to ACT, Gazzolo has also observed greater interest and engagement from parents, who understand the role this data plays in their son or daughter’s continued success in the classroom and beyond.

In the future, Gazzolo would like to do even better. Currently, in every grade level and content area, Diocese of Lake Charles students are a couple of points below or above the national average. Gazzolo hopes to achieve 10 points above the average in the next three to five years.

**“I know the data can help us with that. Because we want our kids to do even better. It’s not just a score thing. It’s helping them with what’s next — whether that’s career or college.”**

Kimberlee Gazzolo, Superintendent, Diocese of Lake Charles

To find out more about the benefits of the ACT ASPIRE and how to offer it to your students, go to [act.org/aspire](https://act.org/aspire).