

# CERT: Information for Ryle Parents

CERT stands for the College Equipped Readiness Tool. The Boone County School District has adopted this tool to help all high school students and teachers identify academic areas of strength and areas for improvement in Reading, English, Math and Science. The CERT is designed to prepare students for the rigor, time constraints and testing environment of the ACT while giving teachers and students valuable information about a student's progress toward mastering College and Career Readiness Standards.

Ryle High School will be giving the CERT to our Freshman and Sophomore students three times this year- once in the Fall, once in the Winter and once in the Spring. Our Juniors will take the CERT in the Fall and Winter and take the ACT in the Spring. Our Seniors will take the CERT on an individual basis as they work on achieving their goals on the ACT.

The scale for CERT scores is the same as the ACT at 1-36. Benchmarks on the CERT are the same as Kentucky's Benchmarks for the ACT:  
English: 18 Reading: 20 Math: 19

Students will work with teachers to set individual goals before taking the test, and students will track their progress towards those goals and reflect on their growth.

To help students reach those goals, CERT has a number of reports that help students understand how they did on specific skills and standards. CERT also has an Exam Room with remediation videos that explain the correct answer for each question a student missed and a Study Hall that has video lessons focused on broader topics from the assessments. One of the greatest learning tools is the ability to learn from your mistakes, and CERT gives students this opportunity through these options. Students have a login and can work through these two options to make progress toward their goal.

CERT is a tool for our students and staff at Ryle to continue to pursue **excellence** in everything we do.

## What can parents do?

**August:** Talk with your student about his/her interests and strengths. Help guide him/her to begin thinking about possible career paths that may incorporate those strengths and interests. Students at Ryle complete an Individualized Learning Plan that guides them through possible career paths. Ask your student about his/her ILP.

With your student, visit ACT's interactive World of Work Wheel at:  
<http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/multimedia/wmap/world.html>

Click on a few of the areas in which your student is interested. A list of job titles will appear on the right. Choose a few to click on and explore. Then, scroll to the bottom and click "View Profiles for Success". This will give your student the range of typical ACT composite scores of successful people in that field. This range could potentially become your child's goal on the ACT.

**September:** Talk with your student about the CERT test and encourage him/her to try his/her very best. After he/she takes the test, check in with your student and ask to see the score report and/or the goal tracking sheet. Celebrate strengths and discuss ways to improve in other areas. Continue your conversation that helps students see how improving this score can open up opportunities for them in the fields they choose.

**October-December:** Talk with your student about his/her progress in working through the Exam Room and Study Hall. Ask him/her what he/she is doing to make progress toward that goal.

**January:** Encourage your student to try his/her very best on the Winter test. After your student takes the Winter test, ask him/her to see the scores and goal tracking sheet. Celebrate growth and discuss a plan for tackling areas of improvement before the Spring test. Continue your conversation that helps students see how improving this score can open up opportunities for them in the fields they choose.

**February-March:** Talk with your student about his/her progress in working through the Exam Room and Study Hall. Ask him/her what he/she is doing to make progress toward that goal.

**March-April:** Encourage your student to try his/her very best on the Spring CERT or ACT test. Once the students have taken the Spring test, ask to see the goal tracking sheet. Celebrate growth and discuss a plan for tackling areas of improvement over the summer and next school year.