National Catholic Schools Standards

5 An excellent Catholic school provides career and workplace experiences (for example, part-time or full-time) that recognize and respect the rights of the appropriate and legitimate authorities, and that contribute to the formation of an educated workforce and responsible citizens. School leadership collaborates with community partners, educators, and employers to ensure that student learning is in line with the career and workplace experiences that define the knowledge, skills, and values valued and needed in the community.

6 The governing body, in consultation with the leadership team, develops and implements a continuous improvement process that is inclusive of the school and the community. This process is guided by a vision of excellence for the school and the educational mission of the local and national church, and provides for ongoing evaluation, development, and improvement of the school's operations.

Academic Excellence (School)

7 An excellent Catholic school develops and implements a curriculum aligned with national standards, 21st century skills, and Gospel values, integrated through all aspects of the school experience.

8 The curriculum adheres to appropriate, aligned, and standardized, and is vertically aligned to ensure coherence and continuity. It integrates the common core of academic courses based on the standards and rooted in Catholic values.

9 Standards are adopted across the curriculum, and include Integration of the religious, spiritual, moral, and ethical dimensions of learning in all subjects.

10 Curriculum and instruction for 21st century learning provide students with the knowledge, understanding, and skills to become creative, resilient, flexible, critical, and civic, and to understand problems, decision making, and societal problems.

11 Classroom instruction is designed to intentionally address the effective teaching of learning, such as instructional and social interactions, relationship management and support, and the content and practice of teaching.

12 Classroom instruction is designed to engage and involve all students, including those that are at risk or otherwise need support, and that accommodate students with special needs as fully as possible.

13 Faculty collaborate in professional learning communities to develop, implement and continuously improve the effectiveness of the curriculum and instruction to result in high levels of student achievement.

14 The faculty and leadership team support professional development to continuously improve knowledge and skills necessary for effective instruction, collaborative culture, and modeling of Gospel values.

15 Faculty and staff engage in high quality professional development, including regular observation of teaching, and are accountable for implementation that supports student learning.

16 An excellent Catholic school uses school-wide assessment processes and practices to demonstrate student learning progress and to make decisions about instruction.

17 School-wide staff learn to use data to improve instruction, and to use data to make informed decisions about the curriculum and instruction.

18 The leaders and teachers work together to develop and implement the student data system used to measure the effectiveness of instruction.

19 School-wide and related student data are shared with interested stakeholders.

20 Faculty use a variety of curriculum-based assessments aligned with learning outcomes and instructional processes to assess student learning, including formative, summative, authentic, performance, and student self-assessment.

21 A curriculum is designed to allow science research experiences and the appropriate research methods are used.

22 Faculty collaborate in professional learning communities to monitor individual and classroom student learning through methods so consistent with the educational mission of the school.

Defining Characteristics of Catholic Schools

- Commitment to the teachings of Jesus Christ
- Contributing to the Evangelization of the Church
- Commitment to the community
- Committed to educating the whole child
- Sustained by Gospel Witness
- Shaped by Community and Community
- Accessible to All Students
- Established by the Expressing Authority of the Bishop

Operational Vitality (School)

10 An excellent Catholic school develops and implements a long-range strategic plan that includes both current and projected initiatives and is the result of a collaborative process.

11 The governing body and school leadership team engage in financial planning and management by assessing and prioritizing the school's financial resources.

12 Financial plans include targeted revenue sources and are not limited to tuition, foundation, endowment, school enhances the student experience, parent involvement, cash flow, budgeting, fundraising.

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14 The governing body and school leadership team provide families access to information about tuition assistance and long term planning for tuition and Catholic school education.

15 The governing body and school leadership team ensure that appropriately developed financial plans and budgets are implemented using current and effective business practices as a means of providing good stewardship of resources.

16 An excellent Catholic school operates in accordance with published human resources practices, including but not limited to, salaries, compensation, benefits, policies and/or religious congregation sponsorship policies, which affect the staff directly involved in the education of students.

17 An excellent Catholic school provides a safe and secure environment for students, staff, and visitors by providing leadership to create and implement effective policies, procedures, and programs to ensure the safety and security of students, staff, and visitors.

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