

Key Dimensions of a Catholic School*

A Blueprint for the Future...Now

The Catholic Education Collaborative is developing an interconnected body of faith communities which are working together to provide the highest quality education available in the greater Dayton area. To achieve that goal, the Collaborative has developed a blueprint of success for Catholic schools in and around the Dayton Deanery of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. That blueprint consists of **10 key dimensions of a Catholic school and benchmarks** to achieve that vision.



MISSION, VISION AND CULTURE

Clear purpose with core values to build a strong Catholic school culture

- What purpose does the school serve?
- What is it trying to accomplish?
- How is it presenting itself as a Catholic learning institution?
- Whom does the school serve?
- How are stakeholder perceptions analyzed and utilized for school improvement?
- How is the school part of one body building the Kingdom of God?



GOVERNANCE

Strong, well-functioning Board/Commission

How does the board/commission:

- Reflect the need of the community?
- Communicate with leadership and community?
- Embody the mission, vision and religious charism?
- Develop and implement a strategic plan the parish(es) and Collaborative share?
- Engage in formation and on-going self-evaluation?
- Work with leadership to ensure implementation of the mission?



LEADERSHIP

Leadership builds a strong Catholic school culture based on mission

- How do the current programs, services, staff and school infrastructure meet needs?

How does the leadership:

- Passionately lead and communicate the mission?
- Implement the mission of the school and Collaborative?
- Use data from the Ohio Catholic School Accrediting Association (OCSAA) school improvement plan?
- Plan to successively build on the continuity of the mission and vision?



RELIGIOUS FORMATION AND EDUCATION

Christian instruction in Roman Catholic tradition, diverse Catholic culture

How does school:

- Evangelize students, families, staff and community?
- Promote the formation of faith-filled disciples?
- Promote Gospel message, building community, worship and service learning?

How does:

- The religion curriculum and instruction meet student needs?
- The religious formation and education support both the local and global Church?
- The school integrate the Catholic Identity goal from the OCSAA improvement plan?



266 Bainbridge Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402
937.223.1331
www.cecd Dayton.org

(Over, Please)

ARCHDIOCESE
OF CINCINNATI

* Adapted from *Key Domains of a Catholic School*, Boston College School of Education. Dimensions were added and further developed in consultation with University of Dayton Center for Catholic Education and the Catholic Education Collaborative and its Partner Schools. These Dimensions support the accreditation process of the Ohio Catholic School Accrediting Association (OCSAA).



CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

Curriculum and instructional methods based on research-driven best practices, varied assessments

- How does the school:
- Improve itself to remain vibrant and relevant?
 - Use curriculum to promote a PK-12 and beyond educational program with rigor and relevance?
 - Measure and communicate student growth and success?
 - Use curriculum, instruction and assessments to further its mission and vision?
 - Use technology infrastructure and integration to assist in student instruction and success?
 - Research and implement instructional best practices?
 - Provide extra-curricular activities to remediate, challenge and engage students, educating the whole child in Christ?
 - Meet the various learning needs of the student?
 - Incorporate OCSAA student goals in designing instruction?



FACULTY AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ongoing professional development of faith-filled faculty

- How does the school:
- Provide opportunities for faculty and staff to grow in faith?
 - Build faith communities that support students, faculty, families, parish and the Collaborative?
 - Promote professional learning within the school and among partner schools?
 - Use professional development to create a learning community with rigor, relevance and relationships?
- How are:
- Individual teachers and staff members given opportunities for growth?
 - Qualified, passionate teachers identified, recruited and retained?



STUDENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Critical resources and support for students and their families

- How does the school:
- Identify and address psychosocial needs of students and families?
 - Assist families and children in accessing community resources that promote the school's mission and vision?



FINANCES

Sustainable financial plan that models good stewardship and addresses affordability

- What is the financial foundation on which the school pursues its mission?
- What is the 3- to 5-year financial forecast of the school?
- How do finances support the overall strategic plan?
- How does the school address accessibility and affordability?
- How are finances managed for transparent, clear accounting practices?
- What methods are used for regular financial reporting to the community?



FACILITIES

Safe, updated and well-maintained facilities for faith-based learning

- What symbols and space support the faith culture and the school mission?
- How does the school provide safe, updated, well-maintained learning facilities?
- How are facility reviews conducted and integrated into overall facility management?
- How is the technological infrastructure addressed throughout the facility?
- How do the facilities support 21st century learning and realize the vision of a model Catholic learning center?



STEWARDSHIP, DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING

Communication plan, enrollment and financial viability

- How does the school:
- Communicate with current and potential families and community supporters to generate enrollment and financial support?
 - Address enrollment retention and recruitment management?
 - Implement a marketing plan that aligns with the Collaborative and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati?
 - Develop and implement a stewardship and development plan?
 - Invite investment from diverse sources?
 - Communicate and celebrate school successes?