



WASC/WCEA Training for Secondary Schools

December 8, 2011





WASC Accreditation: An Ongoing Journey





Purpose of Webinar for WASC VC Members

To ensure the understanding of the essential characteristics of Catholic schools...

- the integration of the Catholic identity within the school**
- the 8 Catholic standards**
- the impact of these on all aspects of the program and student learning, e.g.**
 - ESLRs**
 - Assessment of Overall Student Learning**
 - Schoolwide Action Plan**



Catholic Identity of the School

The school is Catholic, approved by the Local Ordinary (Canon 803), providing authentic Catholic teaching, opportunities for community worship and participation in the Sacraments, and promoting evangelization and service to the community.

The Standards are:

- **A Mission Statement and a Philosophy Statement which indicate the integration of the Roman Catholic Faith into all aspects of school life. (Documents)**
- **Provision of regular opportunities for the school community to experience prayer and the Sacraments. (Observation, Interviews)**
- **A Religion curriculum and instruction that is faithful to Roman Catholic Church teachings and meets the requirements set forth by the USCCB. (Documents, Observation, Interviews)**



Catholic Identity of the School (cont.)

- **The local Ordinary approves those who teach the Catholic Faith (Canon 805,) and their formation for catechetical and instructional competence is ongoing. (Records, Interviews)**
- **Maintenance of an active partnership with parents whose fundamental concern is the spiritual and academic education of their children. (Interviews, Observation, Constitutions/By-Laws, Canon 796)**
- **A service-oriented outreach to Church and the civic community after the example of Jesus Christ who said, “I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you.” (John 13:15) (Programs, Observation)**
- **The use of signs, sacramentals, traditions, and rituals of the Roman Catholic Church. (Observation)**
- **All school personnel are actively engaged in bringing the Good News of Jesus into the total educational experience. (Interviews, Observation)**



More Considerations for Catholic Implementation

Catholic Identity, Mission, Evangelization:

- A Mission statement is articulated, promoted, and define the purpose and work of the Catholic school.
- The Mission of the school is part of the evangelizing mission of the Church: signs, symbols, images, and practices promote the Mission.
- The Catholic school is a place where the Gospel message is witnessed, proclaimed, and taught; Gospel values are intentionally embedded in all aspects of the school.
- The philosophy, vision, and core values of the Catholic school flow from the Mission statement.
- The school community fosters personal, communal, and liturgical prayer.
- The physical, social and interpersonal environments of the school influence/support the learning of “what it means to be Catholic.”



More Considerations for Catholic Implementation (cont.)

Catholic Identity, Mission, Evangelization (cont.):

- **ALL school policies, programs, curricula, procedures, and rules are designed to reflect Catholic teaching, attitudes, behaviors, responses, and resolutions.**
- **The school community prepares students for active, responsible citizenship in light of the Church's Catholic Social Teachings.**
- **The school community promotes human dignity, respects diversity, and works together to address prejudice, racism, and injustice.**



More Considerations for Catholic Implementation (cont.)

Academic: Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment:

- The written curricula integrate the religious dimensions of learning—Catholic values, perspectives, and teachings.
- The written and taught curricula integrate the State Department of Education Core Academic Standards where appropriate.
- Teachers regularly collaborate on designing, developing, evaluating, and monitoring the curriculum and the instructional program.
- Teachers are informed practitioners and decisions are based on knowledge of student development, sound research, data, and informed practice.
- There is cohesion between what students learn, how they are taught, and how their learning is assessed.



More Considerations for Catholic Implementation (cont.)

Academic: Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment (cont.):

- Student performance is frequently measured and regularly reported in thinking ability, creativity, responsibility, and interpersonal skills.
- Students are motivated to learn and understand that learning is a process to which they must contribute.
- High quality staff development, including religious formation, is assessed/delivered in quality time; continued learning to increase professional competence is a clear priority.
- Technology is integrated into the instructional program and accessed to enhance learning.
- The external and internal environment of the school supports the instructional program.



More Considerations for Catholic Implementation (cont.)

Management, Organization, Viability:

- **The school is certified and accredited and recognized by the State and the Department of Catholic Schools (The Bishop).**
- **A school improvement plan drives goal-setting, budgeting, staffing, decision-making, and professional development.**
- **A School Board (determined by (Arch)Diocesan, Religious Order Sponsored, Private Board of Trustees) is formed, informed of their roles and responsibilities, and regularly provided opportunities for professional and faith development.**
- **Relationships with other school organizations support the Mission and governance of the school.**
- **Quality communication within and beyond the school community is consistent and timely; feedback mechanisms are developed and used.**



More Considerations for Catholic Implementation (cont.)

Management, Organization, Viability:

- **School leaders develop and monitor a budget so that school finances are managed responsibly and a balanced operation is obtained.**
- **A plan for ordinary maintenance and capital improvement is written, funded, and monitored.**
- **Institutional advancement goals are written and implemented for student recruitment and retention, development and marketing.**
- **Planning for sustainability and viability is ongoing.**



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