

## Guidelines for Interpreting and Scoring Benchmarks

**1.1** *The governing body and the leader/leadership team ensure that the mission statement includes the commitment to Catholic identity.*

### **I. What does this benchmark indicate for school performance?**

This benchmark indicates that the school has linked its mission statement to the Defining Characteristics of Catholic Schools in a meaningful way. It is the responsibility of the governing body and the leadership team that such a consideration of the mission statement occurs. While the deeper components of the school's mission are to be contained in the foundational documents described in the Standard, the mission statement ought to contain unique, school specific language that aligns it with the Catholic mission articulated in the foundational documents of the school.

### **II. As a review team member, what evidence do I look for?**

These are some questions which will help to frame this item:

- Does the governing body and school leadership team speak about the mission of the school in terms articulated in the mission statement?
- Is the language of the mission statement aligned with the school's foundational documents?
- Has the school gone through a process where stakeholders have explored the heritage and vision of the school from a mission perspective?
- Is there evidence that the commitment to Catholic identity articulated in the mission statement is present within the school?

## Guidelines for Interpreting and Scoring Benchmarks

*1.1 The governing body and the leader/leadership team ensure that the mission statement includes the commitment to Catholic identity.*

### III. What are the key differences between the levels of the rubric?

#### At level **3-Fully Meets Benchmark**,

the governing body and leadership team reviews and crafts the mission statement so that it uses language that aligns it with the Catholic heritage of the school. In doing so it clearly identifies the reason for the school's existence in the light of its Catholic tradition and the population it serves. For some schools this entails a specific commitment to the particular relationship with Jesus Christ it seeks to embody relating to its charism.

#### At level **4-Exceeds Benchmark**,

the mission statement uses definitive language aligned with the Gospel sense of proclamation arising from the defining characteristics and its Catholic heritage. The reason for the school's existence is phrased in terms delineating a commitment to the population the school seeks to serve.

#### At level **2-Partially Meets Benchmark**,

the mission statement uses language that is not explicitly aligned with the Defining Characteristics, or its Catholic heritage, but has a Christian tradition implied in its reason for existing and the population it seeks to serve.

#### At level **1-Does Not Meet Benchmark**,

the mission statement is not aligned with the defining characteristics, nor does it use Christian language in identifying the reason for the school's existence and the population it seeks to serve.

## Guidelines for Interpreting and Scoring Benchmarks

**1.1** *The governing body and the leader/leadership team ensure that the mission statement includes the commitment to Catholic identity.*

### IV. What are some key suggestions for improvement?

#### **To move from level 1 to level 2,**

- Clarify the relationship of the school to the Catholic Church and express this relationship in a mission statement that contains more explicit Catholic language and indicates a particular audience that will be served.

**To move from level 2 to level 3,** the benchmark requires a mission statement consistent with the Catholic educational tradition.

- Utilize more specific Catholic language from the school's tradition, its founding body, or the Catholic theological, sacramental, or educational tradition.

**To move from level 3 to 4,** level 4 implies a particular manner of proclamation and evangelization that the school emphasizes throughout all its programming.

- Examine the school's spiritual underpinnings, and the manner through which it will conduct its work.
- Clarify the school's activities in a language consistent with the language of the mission.

### V. What are key terms for common understanding? (Refer to NSBECS Glossary for terms listed below.)

Governing body  
Leadership team  
Catholic Identity  
Mission  
Mission Statement