

National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective

Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools

Rubrics for Benchmarks

Standard 1: An excellent Catholic school is guided and driven by a clearly communicated mission that embraces a Catholic Identity rooted in Gospel values, centered on the Eucharist, and committed to faith formation, academic excellence and service.

Benchmark: 1.2

The governing body and the leader/leadership team use the mission statement as the foundation and normative reference for all planning.

Level 4 Exceeds Benchmark	The governing body and the leader/leadership team consistently start with the mission statement at the beginning of all planning efforts, and refer to the mission statement frequently during the planning process. The mission statement is used not only as a reference but as the basis for reviewing or adopting policies, procedures, programs, practices and in daily decision making.
Level 3 Fully Meets Benchmark	The governing body and the leader/leadership team use the mission statement as the foundation and normative reference for all planning. Major planning efforts explicitly reference the mission at the beginning of planning and throughout.
Level 2 Partially Meets Benchmark	The governing body and the leader/leadership team occasionally refer to the mission statement during some planning efforts. When policies and procedures are reviewed, connection to mission must be inferred.
Level 1 Does Not Meet Benchmark	The mission statement is not used as a foundation and normative reference for all planning.
Possible Sources of Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Materials for strategic planning meetings, accreditation meetings and other planning efforts show that such efforts start with the mission statement• School Advisory Board and subcommittee meetings use the mission statement as the underpinning of all policy recommendations• Informative materials regarding new programs, etc., show connection to the mission