

*National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective*

*Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools*

**Rubrics for Benchmarks**

**Standard 2: An excellent Catholic school adhering to mission provides a rigorous academic program for religious studies and catechesis in the Catholic faith, set within a total academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture, and life.**

**Benchmark: 2.2**

Religion classes are an integral part of the academic program in the assignment of teachers, amount of class time and the selection of texts and other curricular materials.

Level 4 Exceeds Benchmark	Religion classes are regarded by the school community as exciting, interesting, innovative, and highly engaging. These classes are an integral part of the academic program with equal or prioritized standing with other academic classes. Highly qualified teachers are trained and certified as catechists at advanced levels. The allocation of class time in relation to other academic areas is equitable and is scheduled in specified time frames. The selection of current state-of-the-art texts and other curricular materials contribute to the innovative approach. Religion classes may be service-based and integrated with other academic courses, concepts, and outcomes. Student performance in religion classes are included in academic achievement reports.
Level 3 Fully Meets Benchmark	Religion classes are an integral part of the academic program in the assignment of teachers, amount of class time and the selection of texts and other curricular materials. School leaders consistently program religion courses with the same level of attention given to other subjects.
Level 2 Partially Meets Benchmark	Religion classes are somewhat integrated into the academic program. Religion classes are assigned regular teachers, scheduled into specified time periods, and have designated texts and/or curriculum materials. They may not always be given equal priority with other classes in scheduling.
Level 1 Does Not Meet Benchmark	Religion classes are not an integral part of the academic program. The assignment of teachers, the amount of class time, and the selection of texts and other curricular materials are not prioritized for religion classes. Teachers are assigned in an ad hoc manner and an equitable amount of time is not ensured. If academic time is lost in a given day, religion class is likely chosen as expendable.

*National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective*

*Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools*

**Rubrics for Benchmarks**

**Standard 2: An excellent Catholic school adhering to mission provides a rigorous academic program for religious studies and catechesis in the Catholic faith, set within a total academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture, and life.**

Possible Sources of Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Master plan of classes for the school including number of days and time of day religion classes are offered</li><li>• Evidence of adherence to the master plan of classes</li><li>• Textbook selection committee- notes and choices of this committee</li><li>• Catechetical training levels for teachers</li><li>• Copies of religious education certificates</li><li>• Frameworks</li><li>• Appropriate curriculum materials</li><li>• USCCB approved resources</li><li>• Intentional scheduling of religion in academic program by school leaders</li><li>• Demonstration that the leadership has clear knowledge of religion design and planning of academic program for religion</li><li>• Perceptions survey of school community</li><li>• ACRE test results, affective portion</li><li>• Senior year theology course at local Catholic college, AP dimension</li></ul>
------------------------------	---