



## **Professional Standards for Catholic School Educators**

### **Standard 1: Ministry of Catholic Education**

Catholic school educators are called to be ministers who model and proclaim the Word of God.

An effective instructor in a Catholic school in the Diocese of Wilmington is expected to adhere to the following indicators:

- Adheres to the teachings of the Catholic Church and the policies established by the Diocese of Wilmington
- Models and supports the school's mission
- Participates in school liturgies, prayer services, service opportunities, and other religious activities at school
- Gives witness to Gospel values in communications and interactions with all members of the school community
- Integrates Catholic doctrine in all curricular areas
- Engages in on-going faith formation opportunities

### **Standard 2: Professional Knowledge**

Catholic school educators are expected to demonstrate an understanding of and ongoing growth in curriculum, subject content, instructional strategies, and the developmental needs of students.

An effective instructor in a Catholic school in the Diocese of Wilmington is expected to adhere to the following indicators:

- Exhibits a comprehensive knowledge of the prescribed standards-based curriculum
- Shows mastery of and remains current in subject content
- Explores current educational research and instructional strategies
- Understands the cognitive and affective development of students
- Displays awareness of the diversity of students, families, and the community

### **Standard 3:           The Learning Environment**

Catholic school educators are expected to create and maintain a learning environment that evidences Catholic values.

An effective instructor in a Catholic school in the Diocese of Wilmington is expected to adhere to the following indicators:

- Maintains a welcoming, organized, current physical space which encourages active engagement in learning and reflects the Catholic Identity of the school
- Creates an atmosphere of respect and rapport that supports learning and values individual differences
- Establishes well-organized classroom procedures and routines
- Communicates, models, and expects high standards of responsible student behaviors
- Assumes responsibility for the care of the classroom and instructional materials

### **Standard 4:           Planning and Preparation of Instruction**

Catholic school educators are expected to plan instruction based on the understanding of student needs, current curriculum, subject matter, and teaching strategies.

An effective instructor in a Catholic school in the Diocese of Wilmington is expected to adhere to the following indicators:

- Designs lesson and/or unit plans that consider student developmental needs, backgrounds, and learning styles
- Develops clear instructional goals and student learning objectives (essential questions) that align with curriculum standards
- Integrates a variety of instructional strategies to include teacher-led instruction, independent work, student presentation, and student-driven activities
- Incorporates available resources, including technology, in lesson and/or unit planning
- Plans fair and equitable groupings for student collaboration and interaction
- Prepares high quality instruction and assessment with materials that support the development of higher-order thinking skills

## **Standard 5:                   Quality of Instruction**

Catholic school educators are expected to motivate, engage, and challenge every student through the implementation of well-planned instruction that fosters critical thinking and creativity.

An effective instructor in a Catholic school in the Diocese of Wilmington is expected to adhere to the following indicators:

- Follows the prescribed curriculum with appropriate pacing
- Begins class with clearly stated student learning objectives (essential questions)
- Communicates clearly and accurately with students
- Engages and motivates students in active, purposeful learning that encourages the development of critical and creative thinking as well as problem solving skills
- Manages instructional time effectively
- Implements a variety of instructional strategies to address the diverse learning styles, cultural differences, and individual needs of all students
- Integrates available technology that correlates with learning goals
- Monitors student progress and provides timely feedback
- Demonstrates flexibility and responsiveness

## **Standard 6:                   Assessment of Learning**

Catholic school educators are expected to utilize valid and diverse assessment methods designed to measure student understanding and progress.

An effective instructor in a Catholic school in the Diocese of Wilmington is expected to adhere to the following indicators:

- Aligns assessments to curriculum standards
- Provides a variety of suitable assessment strategies, both formative and summative, that reflect the stated goals and student learning objectives (essential questions)
- Utilizes appropriate rubrics for grading student generated work
- Modifies assessment techniques for learners with special needs
- Records and communicates assessment results in a timely and organized manner
- Analyzes assessments and standardized testing to determine areas of strength and weakness in curriculum areas to adjust instruction as needed
- Recognizes that the cumulative grade includes student growth and progress

## **Standard 7: Professionalism**

Catholic school educators are expected to model Catholic values and demonstrate professional responsibility at all times.

An effective instructor in a Catholic school in the Diocese of Wilmington is expected to adhere to the following indicators:

- Upholds high standards of integrity and confidentiality
- Engages in on-going spiritual formation and professional development that meets the requirements for catechetical and state certification/licensing
- Demonstrates growth by applying and implementing knowledge and skills attained by professional development
- Communicates effectively and in a timely manner with students and parents/guardians using established school protocols
- Maintains accurate records of parent conferences and concerns
- Complies with professional obligations including personal appearance and demeanor as designated by the school
- Participates in school and/or diocesan activities, projects, or committees
- Accepts additional duties, willingly, as needed