

Professional Standards/Indicators for Catholic School Counselors

Standard 1: Ministry of Catholic Education

Catholic school counselors are expected to promote the mission of Catholic education by integrating Catholic identity into the school's counseling program.

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

- Adheres to the teaching of the Catholic Church and the policies established by the Diocese of Wilmington
- Models and supports the school mission
- Participates in school liturgies, prayer services, service opportunities, ongoing faith formation, and other religious activities at school
- Demonstrates Catholic identity through behavior and all communications
- Integrates Catholic values in all facets of the counseling program

Standard 2: Professional Knowledge

Catholic school counselors are expected to demonstrate a thorough understanding of and remain current in all school counseling practices.

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

- Exhibits a wide-ranging knowledge of counseling theories, developmental stages, and techniques
- Provides a comprehensive school counseling program that addresses academic achievement, personal/social development, and career counseling
- Engages with students in a nurturing manner through active listening and age-appropriate questioning and communication
- Participates regularly in professional development relevant to the field of school counseling

Standard 3: Ethical Responsibilities

Catholic school counselors are expected to model Catholic values while adhering to ethical standards.

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

- Adheres to the Ethical Standards for School Counselors as outlined by the American School Counselors Association (ASCA)
- Upholds high standards of integrity and confidentiality
- Complies with the mandatory reporting protocol as required by the Diocese

Standard 4: Consultation and Collaboration

Catholic school counselors are expected to establish relationships and work collaboratively with the faculty and staff, families, and local agencies as advocates for the students and the school.

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

- Consults and collaborates with the administration, director of school counseling, if applicable, and the faculty and staff on a consistent basis to address student needs
- Communicates effectively with families in a manner that is professional and reflective of Catholic values
- Maintains collaborative relationships with professional agencies to provide members of the school community with essential resources

Standard 5: Leadership

Catholic school counselors are expected to exercise leadership initiative through effective research, planning, communication, and implementation.

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

- Provides professional and relevant learning opportunities to the entire school community
- Utilizes educational and/or psychological data to provide strategies and best practices to members of the school community
- Researches, develops, and implements programs that enrich and strengthen a positive school environment
- Serves as an essential member of the Crisis Management Team, if applicable

Standard 6: Professionalism

Catholic school counselors are expected to demonstrate professional responsibility at all times.

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

- Communicates in an effective and timely manner in speech and writing that correlate with school protocol
- Fulfills professional development requirements for faith formation, certification, continuing licensing, and mentoring when applicable.
- Participates as a member of relevant professional organizations
- Maintains an up-to-date and effective record-keeping system
- Models professional appearance and demeanor
- Accepts additional responsibilities willingly, as needed and appropriate

Standard 7: Effective Instruction

(Optional Standard for Counselors Who Facilitate Classroom Lessons)

Catholic school counselors are expected to plan and implement student-centered lessons in a nurturing environment.

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

- Designs lesson plans that meet the developmental, personal/social, and academic needs of students
- Creates a learning environment that cultivates respect and inclusion for all students
- Communicates clear learning objectives at the start of each class
- Encourages the development and practice of critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Implements a variety of instructional strategies that address cultural differences and individual needs
- Monitors student understanding through diverse assessment practices

Standard 8: College Counseling

(Optional Standard for College Counselors)

Catholic school counselors are expected to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to achieve success in post-secondary education.

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

- Remains current through research, college visitations, and cultivation of relationships with key departments including, but not limited to, admissions, financial aid, athletics, and special interests
- Reviews student high school course selections to help ensure preparation for future college endeavors
- Assists students in identifying schools that best meet the needs of students and their families
- Guides students and their families during the college selection process
- Ensures that college documents that are the responsibility of the school are completed and submitted by deadline dates