

**DIOCESE OF DAVENPORT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**SERIES 100: EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY**

**POLICY 100**

**HANDBOOK APPLICATION**

All policies in this *Handbook for Diocesan Catholic Schools* will apply to all Schools of the Diocese of Davenport.

Policy Adopted: June 5, 2002  
Policy Reviewed: May 17, 2010  
Policy Revised: December 2015  
Policy Revised: February 28, 2019  
Policy Promulgated: July 29, 2019

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**POLICY 100.A**

**CENTRAL LEADERSHIP**

**Bishop, Ordinary of the Diocese**

The Bishop has responsibility for the spiritual formation of the faithful. With respect to schools, he shares his regulatory and supervisory responsibility with the superintendent of schools. All Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the Diocese of Davenport are canonically responsible to the Bishop and shall remain in true communion with the Catholic Church. The Bishop has the sole authority to recognize and designate a school as “Catholic”. He shares his regulatory and supervisory responsibility with the Superintendent of Schools.

**Superintendent of Schools/Director of the Office of Catholic Schools**

The Superintendent of Schools is appointed by the Bishop and serves as director of the Office of Catholic Schools. The superintendent shall respect the independent nature of certain major aspects of governance and management of Catholic elementary and secondary schools. Each local Catholic elementary and secondary school has its own corporate board, constitution and by-laws and hires an administrator to run the day to day operations. The superintendent represents the Bishop in preserving and promoting the Catholic identity of the school and adherence to state and federal regulations.

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**POLICY 101**

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND NONDISCRIMINATION**

It is the policy of the Diocese of Davenport to provide equal employment and educational opportunities and not to discriminate.

The educational system of the Diocese of Davenport is committed to equal opportunities to the extent required by law, and does not discriminate on the basis on age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familial status in educational programs or activities which it operates. As a religious institution, we affirm the right to consider creed a bona fide qualification in certain cases. The educational system policy is not to discriminate in educational programs and activities extends to the employment in, and admission to, such programs, activities, and services. It does not discriminate in the administration of its educational policies, employment policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other school and parish administered programs.

Further, the Diocesan Board of Education affirms the right of all persons to be treated with respect and to be protected from intimidation, discrimination, physical harm and harassment, thereby meeting the requirements of Title VI and VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments and the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Code of Iowa.

Ref: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as applied to diocesan schools)  
Title I of the Americans of Disabilities (as applied to diocese)

Policy Adopted: September 13, 1975  
Policy Revised: November 15, 2001  
Policy Revised: August 15, 2006  
Policy Revised: November 29, 2007  
Policy Reviewed: May 17, 2010  
Policy Reviewed: December 2015  
Policy Reviewed: December 13, 2018  
Policy Promulgated: February 11, 2018

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**POLICY 102**

**DIOCESAN EDUCATION MISSION AND BELIEF STATEMENTS FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

It shall be the policy of the Diocesan Board of Education that all Catholic Schools adhere to the mission and belief statements, which state:

**Mission of Catholic Education Diocese of Davenport Catholic Schools**

The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Davenport will provide Pk-12 Youth, regardless of religious affiliation, a faith community of students and educators in partnership with parents, where they will develop their physical, moral, spiritual and intellectual gifts, while learning responsibility and the right use of freedom, preparing to fulfill God's calling in the world.

**Mission of Faith Formation within Catholic Schools:**

The mission of the Faith Formation Program of the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Davenport is to provide meaningful educational experiences for all persons in an environment integrated by the Gospel values which nurture faith, community, prayer and service.

**A Vision for Catholic School Education in the Diocese of Davenport**

Through our Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Davenport, our students will encounter God, who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth. Through this Catholic vision, our Catholic schools, as a faith community of students, parents, and educators in unity with the Church, shall develop each student's physical, moral, spiritual, and intellectual gifts, teaching responsibility and the right use of freedom, preparing them to fulfill God's calling in this world, and attaining the eternal kingdom for which they were created.

**Educational Philosophy for the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Davenport**

The Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Davenport exist to integrate the elements of the Catholic faith with the learning process. Our schools exist to:

1. Educate our children and youth with Gospel values and teach the doctrine of the Catholic faith.
2. Build a faith-community of learners.
3. Provide opportunities for worship.
4. Educate for service to others.

Additionally, our Diocesan Catholic schools exist to:

1. Educate the whole child
2. Educate for global awareness
3. Educate for justice issues
4. Provide opportunities for community service learning
5. Provide opportunities to learn a common core of essential skills that will provide them the opportunity for success in college or the workplace upon graduation from any of our Catholic schools.
6. An educational program that is intentionally directed to the growth of the whole person.

**Belief Statements for the Catholic Schools Program**

- It is the mission of the Diocese of Davenport Catholic Schools to prepare students to succeed in a diverse, global society by providing high quality academically excellent experiences in a safe Catholic

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environment forming them into life-long learners and productive leaders in our society.

- We believe all individuals can learn.
- We believe high expectations are essential to achieve excellence in academics, the arts and other extra-curricular activities.
- We believe that educator and leader focus on the examination of effective teaching and leadership practices will positively impact student achievement.
- We believe that academic excellence and increasing individual student achievement is our highest priority.
- We believe students should have the opportunity to explore and develop one's abilities.
- We believe a culture of continuous school improvement will promote the success and well-being of every student.
- We believe that instruction that maximizes student learning will promote the success and well-being of every student.
- We believe that promoting communities of engagement for families and other stakeholders will promote the success and well-being of every student. We believe that understanding, acceptance, and respect for diversity and individual differences promotes the success and well-being of every student.

We believe that robust curricula and authentic assessment programs will promote the success and well-being of every student.

- We believe the effective and efficient management of the schools will promote the success and well-being of every student.
- We believe effective and efficient management and use of resources to promote social and academic learning will promote the success and well-being of every student.
- We believe that regular access to devices for learning will promote the academic success and well-being of every student.
- We believe that teaching students to become responsible, engages learners will promote the success and well-being of every student.

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**POLICY 110**

**ESSENTIAL LEARNINGS (STUDENT LEARNING GOALS)**

It shall be the policy of the Diocesan Board of Education that all schools strive to attain the following Essential Learnings.

Students in the schools of the Davenport Diocese will be challenged as the result of their Catholic education to integrate Gospel values into their daily lives as they:

**Spiritual/Social Outcomes:**

- Accept church, civic and personal responsibility
- Anticipate and constructively react to change
- Communicate ideas and feelings appropriately
- Demonstrate global awareness, cross cultural understanding, and social justice principles
- Demonstrate personal wellness practices
- Cultivate an understanding of and appreciation for the arts.

**Academic Outcomes:**

- Witness Gospel values through a lifestyle of discipleship
- Develop an active prayer life
- Access and use information effectively
- Apply technology competently
- Think critically and creatively
- Solve problems independently and cooperatively
- Reason scientifically, mathematically and historically
- Appreciate the need to be stewards of their God given gifts

Reference: Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 12

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**POLICY 120**

**CURRICULUM STANDARDS AND BENCHMARKS**

The Diocesan Board of Education has adopted the Iowa Core standards for Literacy, Social Studies, Mathematics and Science. It shall be the policy of the Diocesan Board of Education that the Office of Catholic Schools, in consultation with the school administrators and teachers, shall draft and publish the necessary Standards and Benchmarks for each remaining areas of the curriculum. These Standards and Benchmarks shall be the core of the teaching curriculum for which the students, faculty and administration will be held accountable. These benchmarks will be an alignment with the Iowa Core requirements.

Further, these Standards and Benchmarks shall be submitted to the Iowa Department of Education as the approved Standards and Benchmarks by the Diocesan Board of Education. In addition, assessment and revision of the Standards and Benchmarks shall be a continual process.

Local and regional schools shall conform to both diocesan and Iowa Core standards as they implement their curriculum.

Reference: Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 12

Policy Adopted: November 15, 2001  
Policy Revised: May 17, 2010  
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