



## What is GrACE?

- † GrACE advocates for publicly-funded Catholic education across Alberta. It is supported by the Alberta Bishops, the Alberta Catholic School Trustees and the Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta.
- † GrACE invites all those committed to Catholic education, through the unity of the Holy Spirit, to be advocates and witnesses for our schools' successes and their future.
- † Each Catholic school district has been asked to form GrACE teams and get ready for advocacy.

## Why is GrACE important?

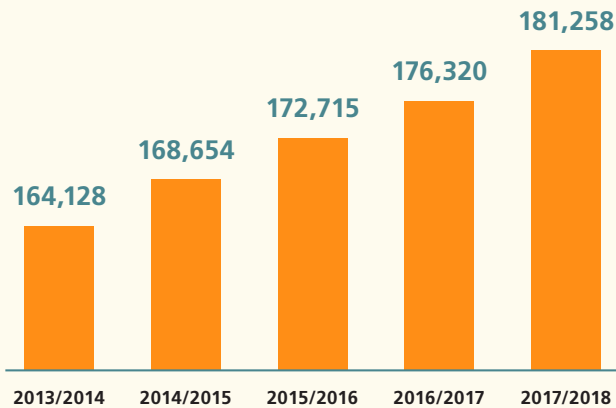
- † The gift of publicly-funded Catholic education in Alberta is a true blessing. As a community we are called in gratitude, faith and action to ensure that our children and future generations continue to learn and grow in our Catholic schools.
- † Publicly-funded Catholic schools are constitutionally protected and have been educating children in Alberta for 158 years.
- † Catholic schools in our province are unique and distinct and share a Catholic worldview that is foundational to who we are.



### The Five Marks of a Catholic School

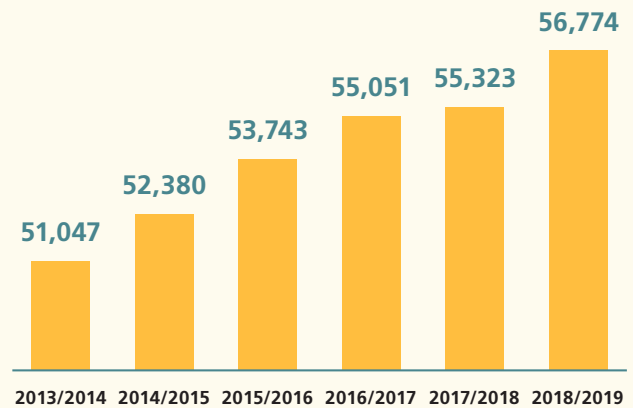
1. Each child is precious, gifted and loved.
2. Catholic worldview is evident in physical space, liturgical celebrations and prayer life.
3. Our faith permeates every aspect of education including learning outcomes and teaching strategies.
4. Catholic educators are living witnesses to the Gospel.
5. Catholic schools are safe and caring communities.

## Catholic School Enrolment Trend



Alberta is one of three provinces in Canada with publicly-funded Catholic education (along with Ontario and Saskatchewan)

## CCSD Enrolment Trend



Since 2016, Calgary Catholic has opened 10 new schools!

## How can you launch your local GrACE Group?

1. Ask your group for prayers for Catholic education.
2. Share information.
3. Develop your own stories - why I LOVE Catholic education.
4. Practice and share your stories.
5. Schedule engagement sessions.
6. Host an event.
7. Organize a movement.
8. Look for new audiences.
9. Network with other GrACE groups.
10. Refine your advocacy plan.

## Getting your GrACE group connected

1. Establish. Take a picture. Share the good news around the province with the hashtags: #gottagracedgroup #IBelieveinCatholicEd
2. Develop your advocacy plan.
3. Engage your community.
4. Connect with Catholic advocates across the province through GrACE Facebook and Twitter. Post. Like. Retweet.
5. Pray for Catholic Education Week May 5-10 and Wear Blue on World Catholic Education Day on May 30.

## Resources

- CCSD GrACE page: [www.cssd.ab.ca/AboutUs/GrACE](http://www.cssd.ab.ca/AboutUs/GrACE)
- Any member of the GrACE Steering Committee
- GrACE Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/GrACE4cathed](http://www.facebook.com/GrACE4cathed)
- GrACE Twitter address: @GrACE4cathed
- ACSTA (Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association) website: [acsta.ab.ca](http://acsta.ab.ca)
- ACSTA Facebook and Twitter: @ACSTANews