

CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT - 9/16/10

Archdiocese of Boston ~ Catholic Schools Admission Policy

Introduction

In creating this policy we are guided by the words of the Holy Father, by Canon Law and by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

“No child should be denied his or her right to an education in faith, which in turn nurtures the soul of a nation.”

Address of His Holiness Benedict XVI to Catholic Educators in Washington DC, April 17, 2008

“As important as a sound Catholic school education is for the new immigrant and the poor, it continues to be of prime importance to those children and grandchildren of the generations who earlier came to our shores. Our Catholic schools have produced countless numbers of well-educated and moral citizens who are leaders in our civic and ecclesial communities. We must work with all parents so they have the choice of an education that no other school can supply—excellent academics imparted in the context of Catholic teaching and practice.”

Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Inc., Introduction, 2005

“The Church has in a special way the duty and the right of educating, for it has a divine mission of helping all to arrive at the fullness of Christian life. Pastors of souls have the duty of making all possible arrangements so that all the faithful may avail themselves of a Catholic education. Education must pay regard to the formation of the whole person, so that all may attain their eternal destiny and at the same time promote the common good of society. Children and young persons are therefore to be cared for in such a way that their physical, moral and intellectual talents may develop in a harmonious manner, so that they may attain a greater sense of responsibility and a right use of freedom, and be formed to take an active part in social life.”

Code of Canon Law, Title III, Catholic Education, Canon 794-795

The Policy

The goal of our Catholic Schools is to provide students a rigorous academic, spiritual and moral education based on Catholic faith and values.

Catholic school principals and faculty teach students to love and worship God, strive for high academic achievement, live the Gospel values, work together, build community and give service to others.

Our schools welcome all qualified students whose parent(s)/guardian(s) accept and understand that the teachings of the Catholic Church are an essential and required part of the curriculum. We count on our parents to partner with our principals and faculty in the student’s educational experience. We do not discriminate against or exclude any categories of students.

Qualified Catholic students may be given priority for admission to Catholic Schools.

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Guidelines

Pastors and principals should consult the Catholic Schools Office with any questions pertaining to admissions or the policy.

School admission policies must be written, included in the school handbook, and disseminated to prospective students and their parents prior to registration.

Pastors, principals, advisory and/or governing boards may develop specific admission policies for their school provided they are in conformity with the Archdiocesan Admission Policy.

Each school should implement a recruitment and marketing program to enroll as many qualified students as possible.

Additional Quotes:

“Young people of the third millennium must be a source of energy and leadership in our Church and our nation. Therefore, we must provide young people with an academically rigorous and doctrinally sound program of education and faith formation designed to strengthen their union with Christ and his Church.”

Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Inc., Why We Value Our Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools, 2005.

’While we look with pride to the many successes and achievements of our Catholic elementary and secondary schools, the entire Catholic community must now focus on the future and the many challenges we face. We, the Catholic bishops of the United States, with the cooperation of diocesan, school, and community leadership, should pursue effective responses to the challenges we face. We must then move forward with faith, courage, and enthusiasm because Catholic schools are so important to our future.”

“In addition, Catholic schools should be available to students who are not Catholic and who wish to attend them. This has been a proud part of the history of Catholic schools in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We must continue this outreach in the new millennium.”

Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Inc., The Challenges of the Future, 2005