

NORM 19

Norm Description: The Bishop is to appoint a commission to create a process for establishing a system of regional and/or consolidated schools to make Catholic education available, affordable, and accessible throughout the Diocese.

Department or Office with Primary Responsibility: Department of Education

Departments or Offices with Secondary Responsibility: Bishop

Person Submitting Plan: Ellen F. Ayoub

Goal: The Bishop is to appoint a commission to create a process for establishing a system of regional and/or consolidated schools to make Catholic education available, affordable, and accessible throughout the Diocese.

Objectives:

1. In the Fall of 2008, the Office of the Schools will identify members to be appointed to the Diocesan Catholic School Commission (DCSC) by the Bishop who represent all four counties in the Diocese and a wide range of expertise that will be instrumental in guiding the Catholic schools into the future.
2. In the 2008 – 2009 school year, the Commission will adopt a set of bylaws that will guide the work that they do. The bylaws will include: descriptions of responsibilities, membership, and length of service.
3. In the 2009 – 2010 school year, the committees of the Commission will begin to study the following areas: alternative funding for Catholic schools; diocesan-wide marketing of schools; and various models of school configurations, i.e. multiple consolidated schools, merged, and diocesan system of schools.
4. During the 2009 – 2010 school year, each school will submit a strategic plan to the Office of the Schools that will guide the work of the school for the next three years. These plans will be reviewed by the Diocesan Catholic School Commission, and recommendations and commendations will be made regarding the plans. Each year, the schools will send a report to the Commission on the status of their plans.

5. During the 2009 – 2010 school year, the DCSC will design a process to be used by School Advisory Councils, and later Deanery Councils, that will enable them to make decisions about closing or consolidating schools. This process will be created using the Criteria for Viable Schools developed by Meitler Consultants, Inc. and the Task Force that worked on the Meitler project.

6. By 2010 – 2011, the deanery School Advisory Councils will be put into place. They will be created and supervised by the Diocesan Catholic School Commission. It will be the responsibility of the Deanery School Advisory Councils to facilitate collaboration and accountability. They will provide coordination and assistance for the schools in the deanery, particularly in the areas of planning, marketing, public relations, development, and finances. They will be a part of the process for consolidating schools.