



## Regionalization: The Role of the Pastor in Catholic Schools

*“The pastor is the spiritual leader who takes special care of the Catholic education of children and young adults (Canon 528).”*

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***Under the new governance model of regionalization, pastors (both host and non-host) continue to have an essential and vital role in Catholic education. The guidelines listed below are designed to support and reinforce the collaborative efforts to be undertaken by the pastors and the Regional Boards in promoting and strengthening the schools in their region.***

### **Pastoral Aspects/Faith Formation**

Pastors are important to the mission and vision of Catholic education. By encouraging the building of a Catholic community within the school, rooted in tradition, in which Christ is made known in all relationships and actions.

Pastors do this by celebrating the liturgy throughout the school year at events including, but not limited to, the Opening School Year Mass, First Friday Masses, Advent and Lenten Penance Services, Stations of the Cross, Scriptural Rosaries, etc. Pastors are also encouraged to make school visits, attend school assemblies and help teach a class. Pastors help support a collaborative relationship between schools and parish religious education programs, and work with the Catholic Identity Committee of the Regional Board to support objectives and goals.

### **Administrative/Financial**

Pastors are encouraged to actively participate and support Board and Committees and invest in their regional schools by serving on Committees and working cooperatively with the various offices of the Archdiocese. This allows pastors to also communicate any concerns from parishioners or students of the parish to the Board Chair in a timely manner, to keep an open dialogue between all stakeholders.

Pastors contribute to the success of Catholic education through the faithful payment of the parish tax and provide input on candidates for regional scholarships.

### **Public Relations**

Pastors are always critical in providing greater awareness of the schools in their region and encourage a sense of personal investment by the parish communities in the schools.

### **Reception of the Sacraments**

Children in the regional Catholic schools receive the sacraments in their home parishes. (If the families do not belong to a parish, they are encouraged to choose one.) The children would be prepared in the school and would have to communicate with the parish in order to fulfill the requirements for the reception of the sacraments. (This would not entail a duplication of religion classes.)

The parents are able to opt for reception of the sacraments by the children with their school community. This would mean that the parents would ask the pastor of the parish where they attend for his permission. The Priest Council further recommends that pastors respect the decisions of the parents in granting the permission to receive the sacraments elsewhere, as they would for baptism or marriage.