



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).”

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 should support the mission and vision of Catholic education. Pastors should encourage the building of a Catholic community within the school, rooted in tradition, in which Christ is made known in all relationships and actions.

Pastors should also celebrate 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 encouraged to make school visits, attend school assemblies and help teach classes. 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 should actively participate and support their regional schools by serving on Committees and working cooperatively with the various offices of the Archdiocese. Pastors should 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 should promote the schools in their region and encourage a sense of personal investment by the parish communities in the schools.