

ACADEMIC YEAR
2024-2025
IMPACT REPORT

Future *of* Hope



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS *in the*
ARCHDIOCESE *of* NEW YORK

Faith-Based. Future-Focused.

Our students inspire us with resilience, faith, and service.



Dear Friends in Christ,

As we reflect on the 2024–2025 academic year, I am deeply grateful for the many blessings across our Catholic schools. This year has demonstrated how faith, hope, and collaboration sustain and strengthen our communities, even in the face of challenges.

We celebrated milestones of renewal, including the rededication of St. Philip Neri Catholic Education and Family Center in the Bronx, which supports students and families—mind, body, and spirit—demonstrating the transformative power of Catholic education.

This year also marked an important step in our mission to serve all communities. In July 2024, the Superintendent of Schools Office resumed operation of seven former Partnership Schools in the South Bronx and Harlem, welcoming back students, families, and staff. At the same time, through the School Viability Study, we made the difficult decision to close several schools, trusting in God's providence that new beginnings can come from endings. These efforts strengthen our remaining schools and ensure Catholic education continues to flourish.

Our students inspire us with resilience, faith, and service. Over 4,500 high school seniors graduated, earning more than \$1 billion in scholarships and volunteering hundreds of thousands of hours in their communities. Their courage and compassion show that Catholic education forms not only the mind but also the heart.

We also celebrated our connection to the wider Church, remembering the life and ministry of Pope Francis with a Week of Prayer and Reflection and welcoming the election of Pope Leo XIV, an American Augustinian, whose example inspires our students in faith and leadership.

I extend my gratitude to each member of our school community. Your faith, generosity, and dedication make Catholic education possible—forming young people who are spiritually grounded, intellectually prepared, and filled with hope. Let us move forward with courage, trusting in God's grace, and embracing the opportunities to renew, strengthen, and shine His light in the world.

Sincerely, in Christ,

Sr. Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Photo: His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York with Sr. Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, Ph.D., Secretary for Education and Faith Formation and Superintendent of Schools.

Future *of* Excellence:

Catholic Schools Receive
Cognia Reaccreditation
Through 2031



In 2025, Catholic schools across the Archdiocese of New York achieved a milestone in educational excellence and mission alignment. The Superintendent of Schools Office received confirmation that all regional and parish elementary schools have been reaccredited by Cognia through June 2031, affirming the strength and sustainability of one of the nation's largest Catholic school networks.

Cognia, a global nonprofit providing quality assurance for schools worldwide, evaluates institutions through a rigorous framework focused on teaching and learning, leadership, and continuous improvement. The reaccreditation process—spanning a full year of internal self-study and external evaluation—involved faculty, administrators, students, and families across nine school regions of the Archdiocese.

“This is not a new occurrence for our schools—it is a reaffirmation of our continued excellence,” said Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools. “For many years, through Cognia and before that AdvancED, as well as Middle States, our schools have met and exceeded the standards of excellence expected of accredited institutions. This reaccreditation reflects our unwavering commitment to academic quality and Catholic formation.”

Cognia's evaluation highlighted the Superintendent of Schools Office's consistent standards, effective instructional leadership, strong student engagement, and integration of Catholic identity in every school. Reviewers noted the collaboration among principals, teachers, and staff in creating safe, nurturing, and academically rigorous learning environments.

Serving more than 27,000 students in 106 elementary schools, the Archdiocese continues to prioritize innovation alongside faith formation. Recent initiatives include expanded STREAM programs, enhanced literacy instruction, and integrated digital learning—ensuring students are prepared academically while growing in Catholic values.

“Our Catholic schools form the whole child—mind, body, and spirit—while preparing them to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world,” Sister Mary Grace said. “Cognia's recognition affirms that mission and our commitment to every child entrusted to our care.”

The reaccreditation validates the dedication of educators and school leaders and strengthens each school's capacity for continuous improvement. With ongoing professional development, leadership formation, and collaboration with families and communities, the Superintendent of Schools Office ensures that every school remains a vibrant center of faith, learning, and service.

“This is a moment of pride, but also a moment of resolve,” Sister Mary Grace added. “We will continue to raise the bar, because our students deserve nothing less than the very best education rooted in faith, truth, and love.”

Photos: Students of Our Lady of Lourdes School in Manhattan.





Future *of* Impact:

Students Outperform Public Schools
and Perform on Par with Charters

Our Impact for the 2024-2025 Academic Year.

The information on this page is sourced from the school census conducted on October 1, 2024.

49,483

Students enrolled in a Catholic school in the Archdiocese of New York

153 Schools

served three boroughs and seven surrounding counties

51%
Boys

49%
Girls

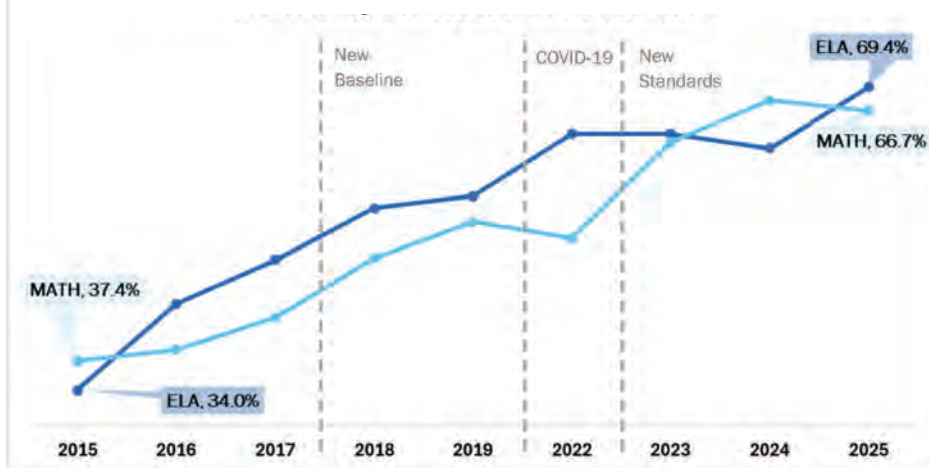
71%
Catholic

29%
Non-Catholic

Academic Proficiency

In English Language Arts (ELA), nearly 70% of assessed students in Catholic schools within the Archdiocese of New York demonstrated proficiency — outperforming the 56.3% proficiency rate of New York City public schools and slightly exceeding the 67.5% rate of NYC charter schools. In Mathematics, approximately 67% of Catholic school students achieved proficiency, compared with 56.9% in NYC public schools and 68.6% in charter schools. These achievements are particularly noteworthy given that Catholic schools continue to educate each student at a fraction of the cost of their public and charter counterparts.

Percentage of Assessed Grade 3-8 Students in the Catholic Schools in the ADNY Meeting or Exceeding the NYS Proficiency Standards for ELA & Math



NOTE: The New York State Education Department adjusted the scoring for Math and ELA exams in 2018 following the shift in test administration from three days to two days, which established a new baseline for results that cannot be directly compared with previous years. Data for 2020 and 2021 is unavailable due to the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In general, cut scores decreased for grades 3 and 4 in both ELA and Math, meaning some students needed fewer correct answers to be considered proficient.

Catapult Learning

Students who participated in Summer Journey showed real growth—boosting their academic proficiency by an average of five points. This measurable progress highlights how the program's blend of academic instruction, STEAM projects, and enrichment activities truly prepares learners for a strong start to the school year.

A group of Catholic seniors are participating in a procession inside a church. In the center, a young man in a dark suit and light-colored pants holds a large, ornate golden cross. To his left, another young man in a maroon sweater vest holds a tall, lit candle in a golden holder. To the right, a young woman in a green and white varsity jacket and light blue skirt also holds a tall, lit candle in a golden holder. Other students are visible in the background, some in school uniforms. The church interior features ornate wooden paneling and a polished floor that reflects the participants.

Future *of* Leadership:

Catholic Seniors Earn Over
\$1 Billion in College Scholarships

This Spring, more than 4,500 students graduated from Catholic high schools across the Archdiocese of New York, marking a year of remarkable academic achievement, service, and faith. The Class of 2025 earned over \$1 billion in college scholarships.

Graduates achieved a 99% college acceptance rate, with 83% receiving scholarships to the college or university of their choice. Many were admitted to some of the nation's most prestigious institutions, including top-tier Catholic colleges, Ivy League universities, and U.S. service academies such as the United States Naval Academy (Annapolis, MD), the United States Merchant Marine Academy (Kings Point, NY), and the United States Military Academy at West Point (NY).

Beyond academics, these students contributed more than 300,000 hours of volunteer service across their schools, parishes, and neighborhoods—living out the Gospel values at the heart of Catholic education.

"This year's graduates inspire us with their resilience, faith, and courage," said Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of New York.

"Whether achieving academic excellence or dedicating themselves to service, they embody the very best of Catholic education."

The Archdiocese remains committed to nurturing students not only intellectually, but spiritually, fostering compassion, character, and a strong Catholic identity.

"Our schools are more than places of learning—they are communities where students grow in both knowledge and their relationship with Christ," said Linda Dougherty, Associate Superintendent for Catholic Identity and Secondary Schools. "We are proud to graduate young men and women who are intellectually prepared, spiritually grounded, and ready to serve the world with integrity, faith, and love."

Among this year's graduates are students who arrived in the United States as refugees, learned English while in high school, and still graduated with honors—highlighting the diversity, inclusivity, and life-changing mission of Catholic schools in the Archdiocese.



Photos: A selection of the Class of 2025 valedictorians and salutatorians from high schools across the Archdiocese.
More Information about Secondary Schools in the Archdiocese of New York can be found at www.catholicschoolsnyc.org/secondary



Future *of* Renewal:

Key Takeaways of School Viability Study
& Visionary Renewal Plan

This year, the Superintendent of Schools Office for the Archdiocese of New York released the findings from its comprehensive School Viability Study (SVS). It launched Part One of the Elementary School Renewal Plan—a bold effort to strengthen Catholic elementary education and ensure its long-term vitality.

The SVS, guided by the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools (NSBECS), examined the health and future viability of every Catholic elementary school in the Archdiocese. The study celebrated the many schools thriving as centers of faith and learning while identifying opportunities for strategic renewal in others.

“All schools, whether strong or in need of additional support, will work with the Superintendent of Schools Office to implement these renewal efforts,” said Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools. “The renewal process is not always easy, but it brings with it the promise of transformation and growth.”

Navigating Change

As part of the SVS process, the Superintendent of Schools Office made the difficult decision to close several schools after careful review of benchmarks and long-term viability indicators. In February 2025, Our Lady of Refuge (Bronx), St. Lucy School (Bronx), and St. Mark the Evangelist (Manhattan) were announced for closure. In May, Mt. Carmel-Holy Rosary School (Manhattan) was confirmed to close at the end of the 2024–2025 academic year.

“We understand the emotional impact these closures have on the students, families, and communities, and we trust in God’s providence to guide us to new opportunities,” Sister Mary Grace said.

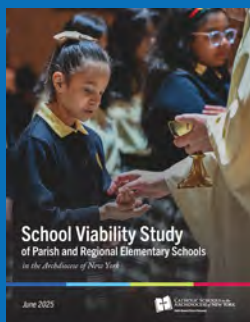
A Roadmap for Renewal

In response to the study, Part One of the Elementary School Renewal Plan offers a mission-driven roadmap to help all Catholic elementary schools reflect, grow, and thrive. Schools will begin engaging with the plan in summer or fall 2025, focusing on three pillars critical to long-term success: Mission and Catholic Identity, Governance and Leadership, and Academic Excellence.

Regional Superintendents will partner closely with schools to guide collaborative leadership and cultivate a renewed culture rooted in faith, learning, and accountability. Part Two of the plan, coming in September 2025, will address Operational Vitality, including financial sustainability, enrollment, facilities, and strategic partnerships. Together, both phases provide a forward-looking strategy to strengthen Catholic education across the Archdiocese.

“Let us hold to the promise of Revelation 21:5, (Behold, I make all things new.) trusting that God’s continual work of renewal and transformation is the heart of everything we do,” said Sr. Mary Grace.

“Together, we will continue to nurture faith, knowledge, and community in our students, confident that God is with us as we move forward in this time of renewal.”



The Superintendent of Schools Office released the key takeaways from its comprehensive School Viability Study, published in June 2025. The School Viability Study (SVS) was a comprehensive assessment that evaluated all Regional and Parish Elementary Schools within the Archdiocese to ensure long-term sustainability and effectiveness within each community.

These takeaways are available at www.catholicschoolsny.org/svs



Future *of* Scholarship:

Photo: Inner-City Scholarship Fund recipients



MISSION

Inner-City Scholarship Fund ensures that the gift of an excellent Catholic school education continues to be a viable option for both current and future students of all faiths. Inner-City changes lives for the better by providing families with demonstrable financial needs the opportunity to give their children a quality, values-based K-12 Catholic education within the Archdiocese of New York.


OPPORTUNITY

Students at Catholic schools learn in a supportive environment where they feel safe and valued. They benefit from dedicated teachers who guide them toward their full potential and instill lasting core values. With small class sizes, discipline, and mutual respect, Catholic schools foster significant academic, emotional, and spiritual growth. A transformative journey unfolds at these schools, allowing students to achieve their goals and aim for a brighter future.

488 Madison Avenue, 3rd Floor
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inner-city scholarship fund
A Child. A Chance. A Future.

OUR STUDENTS

99% of high school seniors graduate

98% of students are accepted to post-secondary education

80% of students live near the federal poverty line

OUR SCHOOLS

91% of students enrolled are minorities

40% of students are non-Catholic

OUR IMPACT

9,000+ scholarships provided annually

\$20M+ in scholarships awarded annually



Contributions to Inner-City Scholarship Fund, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt entity, are tax-deductible, and deliver an excellent return for those interested in investing in futures. 85% of Inner-City expenditures are directed to students, schools and programs, which far exceeds the 65% level of efficiency and accountability recommended for charitable organizations by the Better Business Bureau.

Tax ID: 51-0453629



A Moment *of* Hope:

Honoring Pope Francis and
Welcoming Pope Leo XIV in
the Jubilee Year

From the earliest days of his pontificate, Pope Francis invited the world to seek the face of Christ in the poor, the marginalized, and the vulnerable. His life of humility and unwavering prayer—whether praying in silence before the crowds on the night of his election, kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament in a quieted Rome during the pandemic, or entrusting every apostolic journey to Our Blessed Mother—became a living witness to the mercy and closeness of God.

The Archdiocese of New York experienced this witness in a profound way during his 2015 Apostolic Visit, when he became the first pope to visit a Catholic school in the United States. At Our Lady Queen of Angels School in East Harlem, he reminded our children: “You have a right to dream... Wherever there are dreams, there is joy, Jesus is always present.”

As we gave thanks for his life and commended him to the eternal embrace of our Heavenly Father, our Catholic school community also turned in prayerful solidarity to Timothy

Cardinal Dolan and the College of Cardinals as they discerned the promptings of the Holy Spirit for the future of the Church.

Now, in this Jubilee Year of Hope, the election of our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, marks a vibrant new chapter for the universal Church and for the young people formed in our Catholic schools. His election is not only a historic moment—it is a sign of God’s continued presence among us, offering our students a living encounter with the beauty, tradition, and mission of our faith. This moment invites us to help them understand what it means to belong to a global Church led by the Spirit and called to holiness.

As we welcome Pope Leo XIV with love and faithful obedience, we renew our commitment to forming students who lead with faith, serve with compassion, and live as joyful witnesses to Christ. We entrust our new Holy Father to the maternal care of Our Lady and pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to inspire hope, courage, and missionary discipleship across all our schools.



Clockwise from top left: Students greet Vicar General, Monsignor Joseph P. LaMorte, at the conclusion of the Mass for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis at St. Patrick’s Cathedral; current and former administrators and students reflect on his 2015 visit to Our Lady Queen of Angels School; the official portrait of Pope Leo XIV; and Sr. Mary Grace Walsh and staff viewing the announcement of the new Holy Father.



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