

MONTANA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS-GFB



Policy Manual

SECTION 6000: ACCREDITATION, CURRICULUM & LONG-RANGE PLANS

2022-2023

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6000 Accreditation

6002 Preschool/Child Care Accreditation

All Catholic school programs that serve children in a Pre-Kindergarten environment (Preschool/Child Care) and those programs serving school-age children (Before School / After School) are strongly encouraged to seek licensure, certification, and/or accreditation.

6004 Grade School (K – 8) Accreditation

All Catholic grade schools shall be accredited by the Western Catholic Education Association (WCEA). All schools are bound to the accreditation requirements, including submitting annual reports and arranging for site visits.

6006 High School Accreditation

Diocesan Catholic high schools will be accredited with The Western Catholic Education Association (WCEA). All schools are bound to the accreditation requirements, including submitting annual reports and arranging for site visits.

6100 Curriculum and Instructional Assessment

The school curriculum encompasses all the learning experiences planned and directed under the leadership of the Principal. The curriculum will be compatible with diocesan policy and the school philosophy. Along with religious instruction, each school shall provide a general education curriculum that satisfies the educational standards of Montana.

6102 Religion / Theology Curriculum

A Religion / Theology curriculum will be established by the Diocese and standards shall be distributed to the Catholic Schools for implementation. Catholic liturgy, sacraments, traditions, and prayer shall be taught as an integral part of the school's curriculum. The liturgy should be celebrated regularly for the school, prayers said daily, and Catholic traditions celebrated according to the liturgical season.

All components and instructional materials used to implement the curriculum for Religion / Theology will be consistent with the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, conform to the guidelines of the Diocese, and be developmentally appropriate and relevant to the students' lives.

Catholic schools will provide opportunities for students to participate in community service projects or service learning that benefits the Christian community and/or local community. Religion teachers will participate in continuing education offered by the Catholic Diocese.

6104 High School Curriculum

The high school curriculum will be reviewed on a six-year rotating basis for all subjects and content areas. The high school curriculum will meet or exceed the requirements set forth by the Office of Public Instruction (OPI). The Catholic high school will offer a broad-based program of liberal arts studies.

The general norm of a high school curriculum shall be:

- Religion / Theology 4 years
- English 4 years
- Social Studies 3 years
- Mathematics 3 years
- Laboratory Science 3 years
- Foreign Language 2 years
- Physical Education 1.5 years
- Fine Arts 1 year
- Career and Technical Ed 1 year

See [ARM 10.55.905](#) for state graduation requirements

6106 Grade School Curriculum

The grade school curriculum will be reviewed on a six-year rotating basis for all subjects and content areas. The grade school curriculum will meet or exceed the requirements set forth by the Office of Public Instruction (OPI).

The state requirements for [elementary](#) and [middle grades](#) should be consulted.

The general norm of a Kindergarten through Second Grade (K-2) curriculum shall be:

Religion	Language Arts	Mathematics
Music	Art	Physical Education
Personal Development	Social Studies	Media-Art
Technology	Science	Sensory-Motor development

The general norm of a Third Grade through Fifth Grade (3-5) curriculum shall be:

Religion	Language Arts	Mathematics
Music	Physical Education	Art
Social Studies	Science	Health and Safety
Technology		

The general norm of a Sixth Grade through Eighth Grade (6-8) curriculum shall be:

Religion	Language Arts	Mathematics
Music	Physical Education	Art
Social Studies	Science	Health and Safety
Technology	Foreign Language <i>(if possible)</i>	

6108 Textbooks

Textbooks shall be selected in accordance with a procedure developed by the Principal and Council / Board / Commission. Textbook purchases will be pre-approved by the Council / Board Finance Committee and established in the school's budget. It is important that there be a unified, articulated program and a consistent methodology clearly agreed upon by all members of the teaching faculty.

It is strongly advised that the same basal textbook series be used sequentially in grades K - 5 in core curriculum subjects. The exception to this pertains to schools using an approved individualized management system in reading, mathematics, or other basic subjects.

Principals shall provide teachers' manuals and supplementary materials for every basal textbook series.

- When financially possible, supplementary materials used as part of the instructional program, in conjunction with the textbook series, shall be included with the textbook purchase.
- Supplementary resources should be selected in accordance with the general curriculum policy of school.

6108.1 Evaluation and Adoption of Textbooks

Texts shall be reviewed and evaluated at least every 5 (five) years. Textbook series should be adopted after careful evaluation according to specific criteria. Care should be taken to eliminate the use of outdated texts in classroom instruction.

6110 Library Books and Media

An appropriate selection of printed materials and technology resources in a central library is a vital part of a school's instructional program. If a school does not have room for a central library, provision should be made for classroom libraries or centers.

Local criteria should be established for the selection of school and/or classroom library books. The materials selected shall be compatible with the educational goals of the school.

6112 Instructional Assessments

Student assessment programs shall be used each year at selected grade levels to ensure that students are mastering the skills and knowledge appropriate for their age group.

A copy of the school's assessment results will be sent to the Superintendent. To ensure that parents are informed of the progress of their child(ren), schools shall inform the parents of their child(ren)'s assessment scores in a timely fashion.

6200 Long Range Plan

Each school will operate from a long-range plan of three to five years.

- The long-range plan should be reviewed by School Administration monthly and by the Board/Commission on an annual basis, preferably in August.
- The long range plan should result from in-depth self-study and/or accreditation visiting team recommendations.