



NIAGARA CATHOLIC STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS PRIORITY INDICATORS 2013-2014

Build Strong Catholic Identity And Community To Nurture The Distinctiveness Of Catholic Education

- To enhance our distinctive Catholic educational system by implementing the second year of the Niagara Catholic Faith Formation program, *Growing in Wisdom to Worship and Witness*.
- To conduct a Niagara Catholic elementary and secondary Student Conference 2014 focusing on the theme of *Growing in Wisdom to Worship*.
- To enhance social justice experiences and global citizenship for elementary and secondary students and staff through local, national and international experiences.

Advance Student Achievement For All

- To support all students who are six years of age in the development of literacy skills, particularly in learning to read.
- To consolidate an inquiry based model of teaching and learning in all elementary and secondary schools.
- To enhance language acquisition for elementary and secondary students through the expansion of French Immersion at designated sites and specific international languages to meet the needs of students.
- To implement a Niagara Catholic High Performance Academic Support Program for identified students which supports their training, competition and academic pathway with the excellence of Catholic education.
- To implement a Niagara Catholic Secondary School to provide alternative Catholic education to students through a variety of individualized programming models to achieve student success.
- To support the system implementation of the Ministry of Education "Growing Success Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting in Ontario Schools" and the Niagara Catholic Assessment, Evaluation Reporting and Homework Policy for all schools in the Board.
- To advance student achievement with Ministry of Education, Board and school teaching and learning initiatives on the Provincial EQAO Primary and Junior Assessments, the EQAO Secondary Mathematics Assessment, the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) and classroom assessments to close the achievement gap for all students.
- To design specific initiatives to exceed the provincial target of 85% graduation rate of 2013-2014 Grade 12 students.
- To advance student achievement, through the development and implementation of the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA), and School Improvement Plans (SIP), for every elementary and secondary school focusing on the pillars of Catholic Faith, Community and Culture, Literacy, Numeracy, and Pathways in all schools.

Enabling Strategies

Provide Supports for Success

- To conduct a review of the Niagara Catholic Special Education Delivery Model to continue to ensure that all students who are most in need receive timely and appropriate supports.
- To implement the Mental Health and Addictions Nurses program in cooperation with the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Community Care Access Centre to address the need for increased supports for child and youth mental health.
- To facilitate training and certification opportunities for Board and school personnel in the area of suicide awareness and prevention as part of the Niagara Catholic Mental Health and Addictions Plan.
- To promote and design programs and supports for healthy lifestyles of students and staff.

Enhance Technology for Optimal Learning

- To implement the second year of the digital transformation of the Board- approved Niagara Catholic Blueprint for Technology Plan.
- To deploy system coaches to train and mentor staff on new technology and software to improve student achievement.
- To enhance software and hardware technology resources for the delivery of special education programs and services in all schools.
- To research and select a student achievement software program.
- To upgrade the technology infrastructure at the Niagara Catholic Data Centre.
- To design and implement a Technology Training Program for all staff.
- To design and implement a Niagara Catholic Technology Team that will install and repair technology hardware in all schools and Board sites.

Building Partnerships and Schools as Hubs

- To build capacity with Trustees, the Diocese of St. Catharines, Parishes, administrators, staff, Student Senate, Special Education Advisory Committee, Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, Catholic School Councils and parents/guardians by providing current information and regular opportunities for continued dialogue on Catholic education for all students in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.
- To develop and implement programs through the engagement of community groups and the community use of schools program to address the needs of children and families including nutrition, physical activity and literacy.
- To expand educational-based research projects in the Board, by sharing current research and by extending research partnerships with outside agencies.

Strengthen Human Resource Practices and Develop Transformational Leadership

- To develop and implement the third year of the Niagara Catholic Human Resources Certificate Program for all Principals, Vice-Principals and Senior Administrators.
- To develop a web-based application which will provide elementary and secondary student enrolment to be accessed in real time.
- To develop Administrative Guidelines for the hiring and selection process of non-teaching staff in alignment with the Employee Hiring and Selection Policy.

Create Equity and Accessibility of Resources

- To monitor and address the compliance requirements that support the removal of barriers to individuals with disabilities in Board facilities as identified in the 2012-2017 Niagara Catholic Accessibility Plan and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation.
- To implement the strategies supporting equity, diversity and accessibility as identified under Catholic Faith, Community and Culture within the 2013-2014 Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement.

Ensure Responsible Fiscal and Operational Management

- To comply with Ministry of Education requirements for fiscal financial management by presenting to the Board a balanced budget for 2013-2014.
- To consolidate key risks and mitigate budget factors into a single risk plan in connection with the annual budget for 2013-2014.
- To establish an integrated decision-making structure that supports responsive and responsible allocation of Ministry of Education resources.
- To foster a strong accountability framework that effectively aligns resources to support learning initiatives for all.
- To design a process to provide timely, relevant and reliable financial information that supports effective decision-making at both the school and system level.
- To achieve the goal of 100% certification of all elementary and secondary schools in the Ontario EcoSchools Program.
- To initiate a comprehensive plan for school ground greening initiatives in all elementary and secondary schools as part of our Green Niagara Catholic Program.
- To develop and implement a Niagara Catholic Energy Saving Program to reduce energy consumption as part of our Green Niagara Catholic Program.
- To design a revised Emergency Response Plan for all schools and Board sites.

Address Changing Demographics

- To monitor, report and make recommendations through stakeholder consultation, a comprehensive plan which incorporates changing enrolment, school capacity, attendance area boundaries and accommodation data by June 2014.