



Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association

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CATHOLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES IN ALBERTA

To conform with our Catholic teaching, a Catholic school has a distinct and unique culture and philosophy. It is defined and characterised as being Christ-centered, an instrument of the Church, focused on the development of the whole human person, committed to the inculturation of life and faith, and permeated in every aspect by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In short, a Catholic school is one in which God's presence, truth and life permeate every aspect of the school.

While we, as trustees, have the responsibility to make decisions for our local communities, we also recognize our reciprocal responsibility to the greater Catholic community. As trustees dedicated to the education of our children, we cannot act independently of one another or of the Alberta Catholic Bishops when our Catholic faith binds us together on key issues.

In light of this teaching, and seeking to work co-operatively with our provincial government, we, the member boards of the ACSTA, together with our Alberta Catholic Bishops, identify the following Fundamental Principles as the foundation for building Catholic schools, in Alberta that allow full permeation of Christ's teachings.

Fundamental Principles

1. Free-standing Catholic schools on separate sites have a long and successful history in this province and remain the standard for Catholic educational facilities.
2. ACSTA and its member boards support community partnerships, provided they adhere to these Fundamental Principles.
3. The ACSTA and its member boards oppose the joint use of school buildings with public school boards in any manner that has the effect of undermining or interrupting the full permeation of Catholic values and beliefs.
4. No Catholic school board should be pressured into any type of partnership or joint-use arrangement that could restrict the board's ability to fulfill its mandate to provide quality Catholic Education to its students.
5. When a Catholic board wishes to establish a Catholic school, where none has previously existed, facilities must be arranged in adherence with the ACSTA Fundamental Principles. Arrangements would proceed with a commitment from the Minister responsible for a designated Catholic school when numbers warrant.
6. Catholic school districts contemplating a facility other than a free-standing school will take the following steps prior to beginning the project development process:
 - a) inform the ACSTA in writing, and;
 - b) seek and receive support of the local bishop.
7. The ACSTA, its Board of Directors and member boards will not consider as precedent setting any pre-existing arrangement between a Catholic school and a public school that does not conform to these Fundamental Principles.

Unanimously adopted January 24, 2003

Reaffirmed April 18, 2011