

ARCA Guide: Reflection, Research, and Resolution

The Annual Report for Continued Accreditation (ARCA) is due to the superintendent on February 11, 2022. This gives the school community time to fully review the assigned domain, following the steps of this guide. The entire faculty and staff should be involved in some part of this work.

Goal: To use the year to delve into the details of the domain, learning more about the standards and benchmarks, determining how the school is implementing them, and possibly setting an improvement goal for the school. (The standards and benchmarks are meant to be thought provoking, not a checklist or a one and done.) **Please note: as of the 2021-2022 school year, if one or more benchmarks are rated not met (level 1), the school will not have full accreditation status.**

Year 1: Mission and Catholic Identity

Reflection

Essential Questions for Reflection

- How is our mission statement unique to our school?
- How can we better use our mission statement?
- What makes our school Catholic?
- How can we better use our religion curriculum and track standards?
- How is it evident that religion classes are just as important as any other subject at our school?
- What is Catholic intellectual tradition? How can we use it in all classes? How can we tie in scripture in all classes?
- How are we using and promoting the Catholic Social Teachings? Do we, as adults, know and understand these?
- What is our Christian service program? How do we incorporate Gospel values and Church teachings into the program? How are stakeholders invited to participate?
- Why is it our job to support parents as the primary educators of their children in the faith?
- What makes adults in the school good role models in the faith and Christian service?
- How does the school (and/or parish) support the faith life of the staff?
- How can we describe our school using the defining characteristics of a Catholic school?

Defining Characteristics of a Catholic School (full descriptions in the front of the NSBECS)

- Centered on the Person of Jesus Christ
- Contributing to the Evangelizing Mission of the Church
- Distinguished by Excellence
- Committed to Educate the Whole Child
- Steeped in a Catholic Worldview
- Sustained by Gospel Witness
- Shaped by Communion and Community
- Accessible to All Students
- Established by the Expressed Authority of the Bishop

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Research (and Resources)

These are some possible resources for use in this domain. Please use anything suggested by the diocese and any school based resources related to this domain.

- Domain Guidelines
- Webinar from www.catholic-schoolstandards.org:
 - Understanding the National Standards:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCZMfFlz5aA&list=PLPdeAEzSuFOFxAY_I0SAHb-RCMAQe_9_M&index=1
 - Mission and Catholic Identity:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wpHDI5IQ0E&list=PLPdeAEzSuFOFxAY_I0SAHb-RCMAQe_9_M&index=3
- <http://cici-online.org/>
- <http://cici-online.org/catechetical-connections/traditional-values-virtues>
- Textbooks and supplementary materials conform with the list from the USCCB:
<http://www.usccb.org/about/evangelization-and-catechesis/subcommittee-on-catechism/upload/Current-Conformity-List.pdf>
- Catholic Social Teachings:
 - <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/index.cfm>
 - Podcasts: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/podcast-issues.cfm>
 - Catholic Social Teachings 101: Videos and Materials:
<https://www.crs.org/resource-center/CST-101>

Resolution – Action Items

- After spending time on the reflection and research sections, a committee should complete the level of compliance for each benchmark in standards 1-4.
 - Attach evidence for all benchmarks.
 - Write comments for benchmarks, as needed.
- Review the current action plan. Update it. Upload the revised plan.
 - Use a different colored font to make edits and additions.
 - Indicate what has been accomplished (in a different colored font).
 - Upload the updated action plan to the website.

Suggested Timeline

- September through December: use the Reflection and Resource sections to delve into the standards and benchmarks as a faculty (independently, small groups, entire faculty, etc.)
- November through January: rate benchmarks, attach evidence, write comments
- January: update action plan
- February 11, 2022: submit ARCA with the Mission and Catholic Identity Domain completed and the updated action plan attached
- March through May: continue discussions and research around the benchmarks that need improvement

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Website Use

Please make sure to use our newer website: <https://eas-ed2.accreditrac.com>. Use the same login credentials. Please review and update the school profile. Then assign any new users. Have the committee complete the benchmark ratings, attach evidence, write comments, and attach the updated action plan.

For more information, please contact the FCC accreditation office:

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