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Catholic School Sustainability Initiative

Partnership to Support Catholic Schools in Mission Dioceses

Catholic Extension has engaged Catholic School Management, Inc. (CSM), a division of Christian Brothers Services, in a partnership to help strengthen Catholic schools in mission dioceses. The “Strategic Management and Development Program,” which is a four-year, onsite consultation service available to struggling schools, will help strengthen school boards and their effectiveness, enhance school image and communication, enable schools to raise more money, and teach valuable skills in managing enrollment and effective marketing. This is a hands-on program, in which onsite consultants are deployed to six schools per diocese every other month to work with local school administrators. School administrators or board members are not required to travel outside the diocese for training.

Please note that the program is designed to improve the viability and long-term vitality of individual schools. It is not designed to facilitate or initiate school consolidations or closings, or to create an arch/diocesan strategic plan for Catholic schools.

This opportunity is available to two dioceses beginning in January of 2018.

In our selection process, Catholic Extension will give priority to dioceses whose schools are serving or can potentially serve poor children (defined as children eligible for free or reduced lunch).

With Catholic Extension’s support and contributions from CSM, **the cost of this program is reduced by more than 80%**. Participating schools assume the remaining program cost (see contribution schedule).

Desired Outcomes of the “Strategic Management and Development Program”

Schools that participate will:

- Promote clearly their fidelity to mission, Catholic identity, and academic excellence
- Enhance school board and committee operations
- Be able to articulate their short and long-term goals - through a formal and collaborative strategic planning process
- Significantly increase their fundraising capabilities



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- More effectively manage enrollment (student recruitment, admissions, and student retention)
- Manage their finances transparently
- Enhance their marketing and communication efforts
- Become more sustainable institutions for years to come

Contributions of Each Party

Catholic Extension

Financial – Catholic Extension will contribute 51% of the cost for the “Strategic Management and Development Program”

Communication – Catholic Extension will communicate these opportunities to its mission dioceses and in consultation with CSM will identify the dioceses where there is need and eligibility for this program.

Catholic School Management

Financial – CSM will contribute 18% of the cost for the “Strategic Management and Development Program”

Programmatic- CSM will be responsible for delivering all aspects of the program.

Participating Dioceses/Schools

Financial – Participating schools will contribute 31% of the cost for their individual “Strategic Management Development Program,” starting at \$1,000 per year, per school. Contributions will gradually increase over the four years, as participating schools begin to realize the financial benefits of this program.

Cooperation with the consultation process- Dioceses and Schools participating in the “Strategic Management and Development Program” will agree to the following:

- Both the bishop and Superintendent of Catholic Schools must endorse this four-year process.
- The geographic proximity of the participating schools must be such that CSM can drive to and visit three schools per day (six schools in two days).

- This consultative guidance process must involve Catholic school administrators, pastors, board members, and volunteers.
- School Boards have been established, or will be established, according to the guidelines published in “A Primer on Educational Governance in the Catholic Church,” and board members have been pre-serviced and in-serviced with regard to the appropriate and normative roles and responsibilities of Catholic School Boards. If school boards are not in place, an additional year of consultation would be required (at the same rate of cost indicated on the chart below).
- An appropriate representative of the Office of Catholic Schools will participate in the program of consultative guidance, both to provide assistance to individual schools as necessary and to provide overall coordination for this project.

Financial Detail: “Strategic Management and Development Program”

	YEAR					
Contributor:	I	II	III	IV	Total	%
Catholic Extension	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,500	\$2,000		
	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$21,000	\$12,000	\$105,000	51%
Participating Schools	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$3,500	\$5,000		
	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$21,000	\$30,000	\$63,000	31%
CSM	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500		
	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$36,000	18%
total					\$204,000	

**Note: this model assumes six participating schools per diocese*