

Latino Engagement Institute

University of Notre Dame

June 28-July 1, 2026

A partnership to increase enrollment and support Latino students in Catholic schools

The Church in America now faces an unprecedented opportunity to empower the growing Latino population with quality education. Latinos who attend Catholic schools are 42% more likely to graduate high school and two and a half times more likely to graduate from college. At the same time, Latinos—who comprise two-thirds of the practicing Catholics under the age of 35 in the United States— are under-represented in these institutions, as only 4% of school-aged Latino children attend Catholic schools.

Catholic Extension has engaged the University of Notre Dame's ***ALMA Initiative: Advancing Latino and Multilingual Learner Achievement through Catholic Education***, in a partnership to support the Catholic schools within Extension dioceses by helping to increase enrollment. The goal of this institute is to increase the number of Latino students in Catholic schools.

The Latino Engagement Institute (LEI) is designed to identify and assist schools with unmet capacity (e.g. empty seats and leadership open to take on the challenge) to serve Latino students in the neighborhood who are currently not enrolled. Since this Institute began in 2012, schools that have participated in the LEI have seen an average increase in Latino enrollment of 33% in their first year in the program.

Catholic Extension has secured several spots for Extension dioceses to participate in this program. This is an opportunity to participate in what is a very popular and oversubscribed program.

The value of this partnership for the participating diocese is approximately \$4,800 per school

Program Description:

ALMA has convened a team of successful school leaders and recruiters to deliver a year-long program for Catholic Schools across the country. On June 28-July 1, 2026, ALMA will host an in person annual multi-day workshop at Notre Dame for principals and up to two other members of their team.

ALMA will provide each school an LEI mentor that will work with the school leader throughout the year, answering questions as they arise and facilitating a close community of learners among the group through monthly video conference calls and online modules. ALMA will also convene a February 2027 follow-up conference for principals only, to further monitor, motivate, and educate each school leader. Each LEI participant will be expected to participate in the monthly conference call with his/her LEI team and mentor. ALMA will annually monitor total enrollment and Latino enrollment figures for the subsequent five years following each school's completion of the LEI.

Desired Outcomes of the Strategic Partnership Include:

- One of the most important intended outcomes of this project is that more Latino children will be able to obtain the advantage of a Catholic school education.
- Each school will progressively increase Latino enrollment each year after attending the LEI.
- Principals and other key faculty/staff will become knowledgeable of the current best practices of recruitment and retention of Latino students; and they will become aware of the cultural nuances of working with this demographic, as well as some of the barriers.
- Once Latino families witness the benefits of a Catholic education, word will spread in the community and enrollment gains will continue, especially as the school leadership and faculty become more adept at welcoming and empowering Latino families to full participation in the life of the school community.
- Schools will gain new skills to work with English Language Learners, learn about the process of second language acquisition and utilize research based instructional practices ways to develop culturally sustaining classrooms.

Each participating organization commits to the following:

University of Notre Dame's ALMA Program:

Programmatic – ALMA will provide a high-quality multi-day workshop and ongoing consultation throughout the academic year.

Catholic Extension:

Financial – Catholic Extension will contribute up to \$4,350 per school, which will cover all costs associated with participation in the Latino Engagement Institute including programming costs, room and board (\$2,100), and travel subsidy (up to \$1600) to the diocese. Catholic Extension will also cover over 60% (\$650) of the registration fee.

Payments – Catholic Extension will submit a tuition/room and board payment up to \$2,750 to Notre Dame on behalf of the applying school. Catholic Extension will also provide Notre Dame with a subsidy up to \$1,600 for travel costs. This travel subsidy covers up to \$800 for travel to the institute in June for the two participants (if the pastor also attends, an additional \$400 is provided), and up to an additional \$400 towards travel in February when the principal attends a mid-year gathering in Phoenix. The travel subsidy amount is dependent on the distance of travel for participants and may vary if a participant does not incur travel expenses that meet or exceed the cost of the set subsidy.

Communication – Catholic Extension will communicate the terms of the partnership to diocesan leaders. Catholic Extension will also be responsible for providing communications to its contributing donors about the progress of the participants.

Diocese:

Financial – The diocese/school's contribution is less than 40% towards the registration fee for the Latino Enrollment Institute. (total of \$450) The remainder of the diocese's financial contribution is in-kind, including the time commitment for participants to attend, the mid-year gathering for principals, and the administrative time and effort to implement the new initiatives during the academic year. The diocese/school will be required to pay the Catholic Schools Advantage program registration fee directly to Notre Dame (\$450)

Programmatic – The diocese will identify and nominate Catholic schools in their diocese, where the principal is enthusiastic about recruiting Latino students, and the demographics in the Catholic school area prove to have great potential for recruiting new Latino students. The diocese and the principal and their staff will commit to implementing the recommendations of the Latino Enrollment Institute, to ensure the greatest probability of success of the program.

Financials for three participants:

| Contributor | Costs | Total |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Catholic Extension | Up to \$2,100 for programming costs of Latino Enrollment Institute. | \$2,100 |
| | Up to \$1,600 Subsidy for travel (amount may vary depending on number of participants and distance of travel). This covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$400- Travel per participant (up to three) • \$400- Travel for principal for mid-year meeting | \$1,600 (est) |
| | \$650 towards the LEI registration fee | \$650 \$4,350 (est) |
| Catholic School within Diocese | Less than 40% of the \$1,100 registration fee per school for the LEI | \$450 |
| | Staff Coordination | In-kind |

Approximate Total Value: \$4,800