

*National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective*

*Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools*

**Rubrics for Benchmarks**

**Standard 7: An excellent Catholic school has a clearly articulated rigorous curriculum aligned with relevant standards, 21st century skills, and Gospel values, implemented through effective instruction.**

**Benchmark: 7.1**

The curriculum adheres to appropriate, delineated standards and is vertically aligned to ensure that every student successfully completes a rigorous and coherent sequence of academic courses based on the standards and rooted in Catholic values.

Level 4 Exceeds Benchmark	The curriculum in all subject areas specifies research-based and mission appropriate standards. The written curriculum as a whole gives easily accessible evidence that it is vertically aligned to ensure that every student, no matter what courses taken, successfully completes a rigorous and coherent sequence of academic courses based on the standards and rooted in Catholic values. The curriculum has been mapped for purposes of realizing gaps and overlaps in content.
Level 3 Fully Meets Benchmark	The curriculum adheres to appropriate, delineated standards, and is vertically aligned to ensure that every student successfully completes a rigorous and coherent sequence of academic courses based on the standards and rooted in Catholic values.
Level 2 Partially Meets Benchmark	The curriculum identifies standards being addressed throughout the program of studies. Students are required to complete a specified sequence of academic courses, but these courses are not vertically aligned to ensure coherence and rigor.
Level 1 Does Not Meet Benchmark	The school does not have and use a standards-based written curriculum to provide a sequence of academic courses for students.
Possible Sources of Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Graded course of study</li><li>• Standardized test scores</li><li>• National standards</li><li>• Curriculum maps</li><li>• Specific notation of Catholic values in the curriculum</li><li>• Course sequence</li><li>• Common assessments</li><li>• Written curriculum</li></ul>