



## **POLICY 17: SCHOOL FACILITIES**

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To conform with our Catholic teaching, a Catholic School has a distinct and unique identity and philosophy. It is defined and characterized as being Christ-centred, an instrument of the Church, focused on the development of the whole human person, committed to the enculturation 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, God's truth and God's life permeates every aspect of school life.

In light of this teaching, and seeking to work cooperatively with our Provincial Government, the Member Boards of the ACSTA, and our Bishop, we identify the following Fundamental Principles which provide the foundation for building Catholic schools in Red Deer Catholic Regional Division No. 39 to allow full permeation of Christ's teachings.

1. Freestanding Catholic Schools are the first choice for Catholic Educational facilities. In these freestanding facilities, Red Deer Catholic Regional Division No. 39 will encourage community partnerships, provided they are in concert with the Division's goal to provide the full opportunity for the permeation of Catholic values and beliefs.
2. When Red Deer Catholic Regional Division No. 39 wishes to establish a Catholic school, where none has previously existed, interim facilities may be arranged. If students are to be housed in surplus space in a public school, the space must be renovated to allow for a separate Catholic entity including separate administrative suite, library, classrooms, entrance, and chapel, where space permits. There should also be a commitment from the Ministry of Infrastructure for the provision of a stand-alone Catholic school.
3. Red Deer Catholic Regional Division No. 39 will only consider joint use of facilities involving a public school district at the secondary school level in small rural communities where the population of secondary school students is below 300. In these instances, a third party partnership will be encouraged only if the third party involved is deemed agreeable and beneficial to both parties. This partnership should enhance the programming opportunities for the Catholic school students. The partnership could involve the third party managing its space and providing CTS programming to the partners.
4. The Board will not allow encroachment by a public school or encroach into a public school wing should either party require permanent space.

Reference: ACSTA Catholic School Facilities in Alberta – Fundamental Principles, Processes and Guidelines.

Reviewed: June 2012, June 2018