

## Education Process

December 4, 2023

### **What is the current governance model for Catholic education?**

The parish elementary school is a ministry of the parish. The pastor must provide a recommendation for closure to the Archbishop for approval.

### **What process is being followed for the school decisions?**

The process for the Catholic Elementary School consultation has been very collaborative. The Office of Catholic Education and Formation and the Episcopal Vicars have met with a number of pastors who oversee parishes with elementary schools, providing data and metrics related to enrollment, school building capacity, parish subsidy and other financial support to the school, and proximity to other Catholic schools. The pastors were asked to review the provided information with parish and school leadership and discern the future of their parish elementary school. Recommendations for closure or to continue operations will be submitted to Archbishop Rozanski from the pastors based upon their local analysis and discernment.

An outline of the full process and timeline are available on the All Things New website at <https://allthingsnew.archstl.org/Planning-Process/Catholic-Education>.

### **How is this part of All Things New?**

In January 2022, the Archdiocese of St. Louis announced the launch of All Things New. At that time, we suggested that in order to better evangelize in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, we need to ensure intentional stewardship of the gifts God has given us.

In Spring 2022, an All Things New Education Survey was disseminated. More than 18,000 completed surveys provided a snapshot of attitudes and beliefs about Catholic education in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

By November 2022, in response to the feedback the archdiocese received from school families, pastors, principals, teachers and staff, through surveys, listening sessions and ongoing dialogue, it was recommended that, because parish elementary schools are a ministry of the parish, we adjust the implementation timeline for the parish elementary schools until after the Pentecost decrees. To best serve the needs of our students and their families, implementation of any changes to our parish elementary schools was postponed until the 2024-25 school year.

Early in the All Things New process, the Office of Catholic Education and Formation developed a matrix that outlined the current realities for each parish elementary school analyzing the following: (1) enrollment, (2) building capacity, (3) parish subsidy to support the school and other financial support, and (4) proximity to other schools.

Based on the data gathered, school consultations took place with the pastors of many parishes with schools. These pastors were asked to take the information provided and gather feedback from their parish leadership and communities so they can provide a well-discerned recommendation to the archbishop by December 2023.

### **What should parents do about 2024-25 school registrations if their school is currently under consultation/review?**

For most schools, the 2024-25 school year will proceed as planned. School families should pay close attention to any announcements from their school and parish leadership. For the small number of school families who are impacted, we will prioritize communication and placement for existing Catholic elementary school students.



**What is a Feasibility Plan?**

A feasibility plan is an action-oriented list of goals and strategies that are designed to ensure the long-term viability of a parish elementary school. These plans are developed through collaboration between a pastor and his parish, school and finance council leadership. Long-term feasibility plans should consider cost projections, funding sources and school enrollment. Staffing and salary considerations, parish demographics and other ministries of the parish are also factors in determining a school's feasibility.

