

Statement of the Relationship Between USCCB and NCEA

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Secretariat for Catholic Education and the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) work on behalf of Catholic schools in the United States. This document is intended to clarify the relationship between the Secretariat and NCEA.

The Secretariat for Catholic Education at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, located in Washington DC, is staff to the Committee on Catholic Education which includes the chairman, elected by the Body of Bishops, and the bishop members who serve at the request of the chairman. The Committee provides guidance on the educational mission of the Catholic Church in the United States in all its institutional settings. The scope of the Committee's work includes Catholic elementary and secondary schools, Catholic colleges and universities, college campus ministry, and certification for lay ecclesial ministry. The Committee on Catholic Education advocates for federal public policies in education that are consistent with Catholic values and that uphold parental rights and responsibilities regarding education.

The USCCB Office of Government Relations is the official federal public policy representative of the Bishops on behalf of Catholic schools. The USCCB Office of Government Relations and the Associate Director for Public Policy of the Secretariat for Catholic Education consult and collaborate with NCEA when advocating for Catholic schools on federal public policy to Congress, the U.S. Department of Education, and other agencies and departments within the Executive Branch.

NCEA, located in Arlington, Virginia, is a 501c (3) membership association of Catholic schools and educators that provides resources, professional development, formation, support and leadership to Catholic elementary and high schools in the United States. At the request of NCEA, a bishop serves as Chair of the Board (and other bishops may serve on the Board). This presence helps NCEA to fulfill its mission, "to fulfill the evangelizing, catechizing, and teaching mission of the Church." NCEA proclaims the value of Catholic school education nationally, and in this sense, serves as the voice of Catholic schools across the country. NCEA markets Catholic school education broadly, does national research, and uses media to inform the public about Catholic schools. NCEA respects the authority of the bishop in the local diocese in areas of faith and morals, diocesan regulations, and education and catechesis. NCEA supports the efforts of bishops, pastors, educational leaders, parents and teachers to provide the best quality Catholic education possible.

Although separate organizations, NCEA and USCCB have formal ties to each other. In addition to the NCEA Board Chair being a bishop, the Executive Director of the Secretariat for Catholic Education serves as an ex officio member to the Board of Directors for NCEA. The President/CEO of NCEA serves as a consultant to the Committee on Catholic Education of the USCCB.

The Secretariat of Catholic Education and the National Catholic Educational Association appreciate the opportunity to collaborate on behalf of the Catholic school community in the United States.

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