

CORE VALUE #3: ACCESSIBILITY

BELIEF STATEMENTS:

1. We believe that there is a predominantly welcoming atmosphere in our schools, and that the schools' curriculum celebrates diversity.
2. We believe that our Catholic schools generally reflect the diversity of the community that they serve. Consequently, many schools are quite diverse, ethnically, economically and religiously. Those schools which mirror the homogeneous nature of their parish or community still strive to celebrate and welcome diversity.
3. We believe that if Catholic education is perceived as inaccessible, it may be because of:
 - a. The cost of the tuition;
 - b. Lack of transportation – mainly for out-of-town students;
 - c. Insufficient resources for students with special needs, both gifted and challenged;
 - d. The misperception that this education is exclusive –
 - for Catholics and/or Parishioners only
 - for the wealthy.

ACTION STEPS:

The following initiatives need to be enhanced to improve the **Accessibility** of our Catholic schools:

1. Increase advertising and marketing efforts on behalf of our schools;
2. Provide additional tuition assistance to encourage enrollment;
3. Advocate for tax credits, vouchers, and other governmental support;
4. Secure and provide transportation across town lines;
5. Promote more effective advancement efforts, Examples:
 - a. Creative methods of fund raising;
 - b. Increased support from parishes without schools;
 - c. More Archdiocesan support;
 - d. Grants;
 - e. Corporate support;
 - f. Adopt-A-Student programs.