

THE SUPERINTENDENT'S CHRONICLE

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A quarterly newsletter provided by Catapult Learning, *The Superintendent's Chronicle* offers Catholic school leaders at the chancery-level current insights, ideas, and information about the landscape of Catholic schools and helpful tools for addressing emerging challenges.

Summer is upon us and delightfully so. Congratulations for another successful academic year in service of Catholic education. May these summer weeks be a time of renewal, rest, and relaxation for all.



Increase Student Motivation, Mental Health & Success Through EmpowerU

empowerU

Resilience • Persistence • Success

Mental health needs for students, faculties, and families have skyrocketed recently for a variety of reasons. Such non-academic barriers to learning are crucial to overcome to help support student success. EmpowerU's highly personalized, data-driven Tier 1 and Tier 2 solutions equip students with the skills they need to be resilient, self-directed learners and reach their goals. A blended approach of online lessons with robust embedded coaching helps expand school capacity to meet the urgent need to support student wellbeing and mental health. <https://empoweru.education/>

Recently Appointed Superintendents & Central Office Leaders

Congratulations and best wishes to the following new diocesan leaders from:

Diocese of Marquette	Jessica Betz
Diocese of Peoria	Jerry Sanderson
Diocese of Charleston	Colleen Donohoe
Diocese of Youngstown	Steven Jones
Diocese of Toledo	Kyle Kubik
Diocese of Monterey	Dan Anderson
Diocese of Memphis	Chris Fay
Diocese of Orlando	Erika Wikstrom
Diocese of Pittsburgh	Sharon Brown
Diocese of Victoria	Robert Whitworth
Diocese of Portland in Maine	Shelly Wheeler
Archdiocese of Boston	Eileen McLaughlin
Archdiocese of Denver	Kemmerly Hill
Archdiocese of Detroit	Eric Haley
Archdiocese of Philadelphia (high schools)	William Brannick
Archdiocese of Atlanta	Patty Childs

We honor and celebrate the years of service, witness, and formation provided by superintendents who recently left their positions, including:

Diocese of Portland in Maine	Marianne Pelletier
Diocese of Marquette	Mark Salisbury
Diocese of Peoria	Susan Miller
Diocese of Buffalo	Tim Uhl
Diocese of Pittsburgh	Michelle Peduto
Diocese of Victoria	John Quary
Archdiocese of Detroit	Laura Knaus

Readers are welcome to send any updates to Fr. Ron Nuzzi ron.nuzzi@catapultlearning.com or at 330.652.7944.

How Pope Francis Sees Education

Pope Francis has spoken often and eloquently about the important role that the education of children plays in human history and in our mutual salvation. He has been forthright in his support of education as the single best avenue to address poverty, injustice, and inequality, and he has steadfastly critiqued the breakdown of communication among families, schools, society, and social institutions.

Pope Francis is convinced that education has the potential to transform people and the world. It is the absence or lack of educational initiatives that have caused humanity to lose its sense of fraternity and respect for the environment, to become enclosed in selfishness and to practice a culture of waste. For this reason, Francis sees education as a force for liberation.

For a summary of Pope Francis' views on education, see Luis Fernando Klein's, SJ, essay [here](#).



Catholic Leadership Summit 2024 in Seattle



The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) will hold its annual Catholic Leadership Summit (CLS) in the Archdiocese of Seattle this fall, October 13-16, 2024. The conference will take place at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in downtown Seattle, with liturgical celebrations just up a hill at the archdiocesan Saint James Cathedral. CLS is wonderful opportunity to network with other central office leaders, share experiences, and to celebrate our ministry and service. Registration information can be found [here](#).

IDEA & CHILD FIND

Summer is an opportune time to revisit federal equitable services provisions in ESSA, IDEA, and even more localized state and district policies and procedures. Recall that IDEA requires that districts identify, locate, and evaluate students in private schools suspected of having a disability. Learn more [here](#).

For helpful strategies regarding IDEA consultation and safeguards, click [here](#). (free webinars & publications available)

Professional Learning Community (PLC) Invitation for Diocesan & System Leaders

Boston College's Roche Center for Catholic Education and Catapult Learning collaborate in supporting a professional learning community (PLC) for diocesan superintendents and network CEOs. The group meets monthly via Zoom to share prayer, best practices, emerging research, and familiar challenges. Two in-person retreats are held annually, one during Lent and another in fall immediately prior to NCEA's Catholic Leadership Summit.

For more information about joining, please contact Dr. Melodie Wyttenbach at Boston College (wyttenba@bc.edu), Fr. Ron Nuzzi at Catapult Learning (ron.nuzzi@catapultlearning.com) or click [here](#).

The Stress of Recess

Recent post-pandemic research is emphasizing the need for outdoor play as already overscheduled children gravitate to electronic devices and away from interactive and social skill building activities. The American Academy of Pediatrics is updating their [2018 statement](#) encouraging medical professionals, educators, and parents to be more attentive to the developmental needs of children and to encourage active play as a way to foster the growth of essential social skills such as cooperation, empathy, collaboration, patience, and acceptance.

To read more about how schools are improving playtime and getting creative with recess, click [here](#).

Raising Catholic Children To Be Catholic Adults

According to data reported in the General Social Survey (GSS), in the 1970s, an average of 36 percent of those who were raised Catholic in the USA remained Catholic as adults and attended Mass weekly, peaking at 40 percent in 1977. This average percentage declined in the 2010s to 15 percent, and to 14 percent in 2018. Today, approximately 15 percent of those raised Catholic can be expected to be Catholic adults who attend Mass weekly. To understand the personal and family characteristics of those who remain in the faith and active in the Church as adults, see Future Faithful Families Project: Successfully Raising Catholic Children To Be Active Catholic as Adults by Mark Gray and Gregory Popcak at [Peyton Family Institute](#).

Universities Try 3-Year Degrees To Save Students Time, Money

The latest effort to increase college enrollment and save students time and money is the potential creation of a 3-year bachelor's degree. The programs, at both public and private universities, would require 90 credits instead of the traditional 120 for a bachelor's degree. More importantly, coursework could be completed during the regular academic year without the need for summer classes or studying over breaks. Some current proposals are designed to fit industry and employment needs.

More than a dozen public and private universities are participating in a pilot collaboration called the College-in-3 Exchange.

A Pew Research Center survey found only 1 in 4 American adults said it is extremely or very important to have a four-year college degree as a means to getting a good-paying job. Only 22% of the respondents said the cost is worth getting a four-year degree even if the student or their family has to take out loans.

Learn more about the pros and cons of such an approach [here](#).

Larger Dioceses Have Proportionately Fewer Priestly Vocations

The number of religious and diocesan priests in the USA dropped from 58,632 in 1965 to 34,344 in 2022, and the number of theologate-level seminarians went from 8,325 to 2,810. During the same period, the number of Catholics grew from 45.6 million to 66.5 million.



A diocese needs a number of annual ordinations equal to 2.4 percent of its current number of priests, and also equal to one annual ordination per 120,000 Catholics, in order to maintain an adequate number of priests to minister to parishioners. None of the 21 dioceses with more than 750,000 Catholics reached the number of ordinations needed in 2019 to 2022. Only five of the largest U.S. dioceses even reached 50 percent of the needed ordinations. On the other hand, among the 52 smallest dioceses—those with fewer than 100,000 registered Catholics—60 percent were meeting or exceeding the number of ordinations needed.

Larger dioceses have a much less favorable ratio of parishioners to priests than smaller dioceses. Among the 21 largest U.S. dioceses, the average ratio of parishioners to priests in 2022 was 7,180 to 1. Among the smaller tier of dioceses, the ratio was 1,138 to 1.

The data describe a dilemma for church leaders as they consider the consolidation of parishes and even of dioceses. If the least populous dioceses are the source of vocations to the priesthood, will consolidating into larger units make things worse? See, "[On Vocations, Asking Is Key](#)" by Brendan Hodge and [Hundredfold: A Guide to Parish Vocation Ministry](#).

ESSER, GEER, AND EANS DEADLINES

With all of the various funding streams made available during the COVID 19 pandemic, it is easy to confuse deadlines for obligation and liquidation. And now that some extensions are available that will allow for ongoing services, it is important to address new deadlines that could extend some services well into the future. The table below summarizes the relevant dates for each funding stream. Note that ARP EANS (or EANS II as some call it) has an obligation deadline in September 2024, but a possible liquidation extension of March **2026**.

Program	Obligation deadline	(Automatic) 120-day liquidation deadline	(Up to) 14-month liquidation extension
ESSER I	Sep. 30, 2022	Jan. 30, 2023	Apr. 1, 2024
ESSER II	Sep. 30, 2023	Jan. 29, 2024	Mar. 31, 2025
ARP ESSER	Sep. 30, 2024	Jan. 28, 2025	Mar. 31, 2026
GEER I	Sep. 30, 2022	Jan. 30, 2023	Apr. 1, 2024
GEER II	Sep. 30, 2023	Jan. 29, 2024	Mar. 31, 2025
CRRSA EANS	Sep. 30, 2023	Jan. 29, 2029	Mar. 31, 2025
ARP EANS	Sep. 30, 2024	Jan. 28, 2025	Mar. 31, 2026

Disagreeing with Your LEA Regarding Equitable Services

To help ensure equitable services and other benefits for eligible private school children, teachers and other educational personnel, and families, a State educational association (SEA) must designate an ombudsman to monitor and enforce equitable services requirements under both Title I and Title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA sections 1117(a)(3)(B) and 8501(a)(3)(B)). To identify your state ombudsman and their contact information, click [here](#).

May I Share This Newsletter with Catholic School Principals?

Yes. Please be most welcome to forward or print copies for principals, pastors, vicars, bishops, faculty, staff, and other interested stakeholders, such as school councils, boards, PTOs, and parents. All back issues are also posted and available [here](#).



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