

## **INTRODUCTION TO SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

*Then the Lord answered me and said:  
Write the vision; make it plain on tablets,  
So that a runner may read it.  
For there is still a vision for the appointed time;  
It speaks of the end, and does not lie.*  
**Habakkuk 2:2, 3**

The purpose of the School Improvement Plans for Religious Education and Family Life Education is to present and celebrate an overarching vision for the fostering of the religious and spiritual lives of students and staff in the school. The plan considers five areas and includes a summary of the School Year Plan for Religious Education and Family Life Education.

- 1. Religious Education and Family Life Education Programs**
- 2. Adult Faith Formation/Teacher Spirituality**
- 3. Catholicity across the Curriculum**
- 4. The Triad: Home/School/Parish**
- 5. Liturgical Life of the School**
- 6. Summary of School Year Religious Education and Family Life Education Improvement Plans**

### **Structure of the Planning Templates**

There are three categories of templates offered to educators to help in the design of a school-specific plan:

1.
  - a) Sample School Improvement Planning Templates for Elementary Schools
  - b) Sample School Improvement Planning Templates for Secondary Schools
  - c) Sample Summary Template for the Yearly Plan for Religious Education and Family Life Education
2.
  - a) Working School Improvement Planning Templates for Elementary Schools
  - b) Working School Improvement Planning Templates for Secondary Schools
  - c) (Blank) Summary Template for the Yearly Plan for Religious Education and Family Life Education
3. Blank Planning Template

### **1. Sample School Improvement Planning Templates**

Each of these sets of templates – the Elementary and Secondary - serve as examples and aids for Catholic educators to help in the design of their overall Religious Education and Family Life Education School Plan.

### **2. Working School Improvement Planning Templates**

Within the Working School Improvement Planning Templates educators will find the following information already provided:

- Description of Activity

- Goal/Expected Result
- Relevant Catholic Theme(s)
- Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations
- How will success be determined?

The role of the School Planning Team will be to complete the template by providing information for the following:

- SMART Goal Design
- Resources
- Contributors
- Tasks
- Process Stages
- Details and Considerations
- Effectiveness (degree to which goal has been achieved)
- Follow Up/Next Steps

As well, the Planning Team should complete **Section 6: Summary of School Year Religious Education and Family Life Education Improvement Plans**

### 3. Blank Planning Template

This Planning Template has been provided for those who may wish to design their own process from the very beginning; that is, unlike the Working Templates, no information is included.

## Using the School Improvement Planning Templates

In designing the School Improvement Plans for Religious Education and Family Life Education, Catholic educators should use **either**

- the Working School Improvement Planning Templates (2) **or**
- the Blank Planning Templates (3)

The Sample Elementary and Secondary Plans (1) serve as a model and are intended only as a guide.

Recognizing the differing needs within the school community, the planning team may

- modify the Templates to suit the needs of the school
- add and complete additional templates for initiatives specific to your context that are not included in the Working Templates
- link the Religious Education and Family Life Education Plan with the overall School Improvement Plan, especially in the area of ***Catholicity Across the Curriculum***

It is our hope and recommendation that the School Improvement Plan for Religious Education and Family Life Education ***will not be completed by the school administration alone, but rather will include the participation of staff and students in the school, as well as representatives of the Parish and Parental communities.***

The plan can be designed for a single year or for several years. However, we recommend that the planning process begin each year in the late spring (or if it is a multi-year plan, be reviewed in successive spring seasons), so that by the end of June, the school community will have a vision of what they want to accomplish during the following school year in the areas of Religious Education, Family Life Education, other subject areas, school celebrations, the relationship with the parish and parents, and with the ongoing, adult faith formation of staff.