



Code of Cooperation Among Indianapolis Catholic Secondary Schools

Indianapolis is fortunate to have six Catholic secondary schools to serve the needs of the area's students. Bishop Chatard, Ritter, Roncalli, and Scecina as diocesan schools, Brebeuf as a Jesuit school, and Cathedral as an independent Catholic school share a common mission to provide a religiously supportive environment where ethics and values of the church are taught and lived.

It should be recognized that along with the commonality of our mission, each of the six institutions has elements which are particular to that school's own mission and constituency. These unique aspects can lead to difficulties and misunderstandings between schools. It is desirable that a Code of Cooperation be created to emphasize the positive aspects of our relationships and to minimize the differences. The promotion and marketing of our institutions and programs, in particular, present the potential for conflict, which a Code of Cooperation can address.

- A. Young people should be encouraged to attend our schools for the unique contribution we can make to their personal, social, spiritual, and intellectual development.
- B. The primary purpose of our school's marketing and recruitment efforts should be to describe the school's programs and the benefits those programs will offer a student's development, not to diminish the value or merit of other schools and programs. When discussing the merits of the school with a family or with individual students, there should be no reference to other schools.
- C. Athletic prowess will not be the motivation or driving force for encouraging an individual student to attend our schools.
- D. The purpose of financial aid is to ensure that our schools are available to those who are not financially able to pay. Therefore, financial aid will be given only on the basis of family financial need. A school may give scholarship grants for specific non-athletic accomplishment, such as exceptionally high-test performance. Statements of the criteria for such grants will be published and shared among the Catholic high schools.
- E. When individual coaches or activity moderators are involved in the recruitment and marketing of the school, it should be in a broad sense and the focus of the message should be that the school is good for the intellectual, moral, physical, and spiritual development of the student. Coaches and/or activity moderators may help to promote the school through open houses and general marketing endeavors. Letters from coaches or moderators to whole teams or groups are permitted.
- F. Athletic coaches may, in response to an inquiry from the parent of a prospective student-athlete, talk with that parent and/or student concerning the athletic program. Coaches are not permitted to make any in-home visits. Coaches may not initiate contact with an individual prospective athlete or parent.
- G. Athletic coaches or individual activity moderators will not discuss with the family financial assistance or work programs associated with the reducing or eliminating the full tuition costs. Questions of financial aid and admissions should be handled through the counseling or administrative offices of the school.
- H. If possible conflict occurs, a school administrator will contact his or her counterpart in the other school to explain the situation and to request a timely response.