



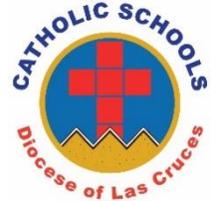
Diocese of Las Cruces

Catholic School Office

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Principal / School Administrator Qualifications

PREFACE

Catholic education, which includes instruction, formation and transformation, exists in order to evangelize. Two important elements that make up the process of evangelization are proclamation and witness. Those who serve in a position of Catholic school leadership proclaim Jesus Christ, model his life and ministry, and bear witnesses to the Gospel in their professional and public life.

As the spiritual leader of a Catholic school, principals must believe in God, support belief in Jesus Christ, pray publicly, respect ecclesiastical authority, and possess an essential knowledge of the Catholic Church and the Catholic Faith.

All principals who serve in Catholic education must live a life consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church, be active members of their parish churches and not take a public position contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

PRINCIPAL QUALIFICATIONS

1. A practicing Roman Catholic* in good standing with the Church.
2. Possess a commitment to the development of a Catholic community of faith and virtue within a school.
3. Hold a well-developed philosophy of education and an understanding of an authentic Catholic education.
4. Hold a Master's degree or its equivalent,** preferably in Education Administration or in Business and/or Theology.
5. Have a minimum of five years of teaching experience in Catholic schools or its equivalent.* Such experience should be sufficiently broad to provide educational leadership in an elementary or secondary school.
6. Have successfully completed the Catholic School Office Leadership Program of the Diocese of Las Cruces or a similar leadership program in another Roman Catholic Diocese or Catholic University. In the event that a person is hired who has not completed such a program, arrangements shall be made during the first year as principal to enter a Catholic school leadership program.
7. Have leadership ability as evidenced by performance in educational assignments, i.e., have the demonstrated capacity, enthusiasm, vision and management skills to direct and to inspire teachers, children, parents, clergy and local school community leaders.

*Includes both Latin Rite Catholics as well as Eastern Rite Catholics who are in communion with Rome.

**Candidates who do not have a Master's degree or at least five years of experience in Catholic Education are not necessarily disqualified, ipso facto. Such candidates will be considered on a case by case basis, providing that candidate possesses sufficient experiential knowledge and/or training which would significantly contribute to a candidate's aptitude for success as an educational leader in a Catholic school.