**Excerpts from NATIONAL STANDARDS AND BENCHMARKS FOR EFFECTIVE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

The “National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools” is intended to describe how the most mission-driven, program-effective, well-managed and responsibly governed schools operate. They are offered as school effectiveness standards rather than curriculum content standards, although they support curriculum development consistent with the national standards and the Common Core State Standards.

**Standards and Benchmarks for Academic Excellence**

**Standard 8**

An excellent Catholic school uses school-wide assessment methods and practices to document student learning and program effectiveness, to make student performances transparent, and to inform the continuous review of curriculum and the improvement of instructional practices.

**Standard 8 Benchmarks**

8.1 School-wide and student data generated by a variety of tolls are used to monitor, review and evaluate the curriculum and co-curricular programs; to plan for continued and sustained student growth; and to monitor and assess faculty performance.

8.2 School-wide and aggregated student data are normed to appropriate populations and are shared with all stakeholders.

8.3 Faculty use of variety of curriculum-based assessments aligned with learning outcomes and instructional practices to assess student learning, including formative, summative, authentic performance and student self-assessment.

8.4 Criteria used to evaluate student work and the reporting mechanisms are valid, consistent, transparent and justly administered.

8.5 Faculty collaborate in professional learning communities to monitor individual and class-wide student learning through methods such as common assessments and rubrics.

Center for Catholic School Effectiveness, Loyola University Chicago, in partnership with Barbara and Patrick Roche Center for Catholic Education, Lynch School of Education, Boston College. (2012). National standards and benchmarks for effective catholic elementary and secondary schools. In *Momentum*/Official Journal of National Catholic Educational Association. February/March, 21