



Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association

Celebrate, preserve, promote and enhance Catholic education

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ACSTA Statement in Response to Guidelines for Best Practices

"ACSTA (Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association) reaffirms that all Catholic schools in Alberta have been and will continue to be inclusive, welcoming, safe and caring environments.

Guided and grounded by our faith, every child is seen as a precious and unique child of God deserving of individualized love and attention to reach their full God-given potential.

The ACSTA appreciates the leadership of Catholic school boards, Catholic school divisions/authorities, and the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA) in the development and implementation of overarching Safe & Caring school policies, strong anti-bullying policies and the *LIFE Framework (Lived Inclusion for Everyone)* document which have long ensured that all students, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, etc. are treated with equal respect and dignity.

ACSTA reaffirms the rights of parents and/or guardians as primary educators to make informed choices for their child/children.

ACSTA reaffirms the responsibility and the role of the Alberta Catholic Bishops to provide moral and theological leadership to the Catholic community including Catholic education communities.

ACSTA reaffirms its commitment to work with Alberta Education and regrets Alberta Education's lack of consultation during the development of the Guidelines for Best Practices resource material.

ACSTA is confident that all Catholic School Boards will continue (as has been their foundational practice and moral imperative) to be responsive to the individual needs of all their students-without exception!"

"The ACSTA has 24 member boards, representing 412 schools in Alberta, serving over 160,000 students.

For more information or to speak with an ACSTA representative please contact ACSTA at 780-484-6209.