



*In a spirit of communion, solidarity and subsidiarity,
the Office for Catholic Schools provides high quality professional development, resources, and best practices
to expand the evangelizing mission of our Church as we help one another form the school leaders God has designed for our time.*

February 12, 2021

Dear (Archdiocese of Seattle) Catholic School Parent,

The Archdiocese of Seattle has done a tremendous amount of work advancing the programming for diverse learners within Catholic schools. This work is grounded in our belief that we are called to serve all learners in our care. It is one of the ways in which we animate the gospel message.

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:34-40)

While the Archdiocese of Seattle is committed to responding to this call to serve our diverse learners, we recognize that each school is responsible for defining what they are able to provide in terms of resources, expertise and programs. In order to support our schools in this work, we use a Professional Learning Community approach to continue to deepen our instructional efforts to serve and support all learners in our schools.

We are excited to share with you news of *The Matthew Project: An Implementation Plan for Addressing the Needs of the Diverse Learner in the Archdiocese of Seattle*. This project is a collaboration between the Archdiocese of Seattle, the Andrew M. Greeley Center for Catholic Education at Loyola University Chicago, and the Fulcrum Foundation. This multiphase project aims to use baseline data to develop a systemic plan or roadmap to advance efforts in meeting the needs of diverse learners over the next 3-5 years. Phase one of this project is to gather data about our current practices in meeting diverse learners' needs. As part of this process, we are seeking the perspectives of teachers, parents and school administrators to help develop a comprehensive picture of our current practices.

We invite you to participate in an online survey about school practices for learners with disabilities in Catholic schools. This online survey should take about 10 minutes to complete. Please click the link below to respond to the survey.

[Parent Survey](#)

We ask that you complete the survey by March 5, 2021. The survey link will be inactive after that date.

In addition to the surveys, we will be conducting a limited number of focus group sessions. **If you would be interested in participating in a focus group session, please use this [link](#) to indicate your interest and submit your contact information.** Focus groups sessions are scheduled March 1 - March 11, 2021, so please indicate your interest in participating as soon as possible. Once you have submitted your information, someone from the Diversified Learners Executive Committee will reach out to you. (Please note, this link and information is being collected separately from the survey responses to assure survey respondents of their anonymity.)

Thank you for being a part of this mission-driven work!



Kristin Dixon
Superintendent of Catholic Schools



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