

BK3 §113 STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR GOVERNING BOARDS

Our Catholic Schools are an integral and essential element of the ministry of the Church in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. The mission of our schools is, first, and foremost the formation of Christian disciples and the handing on of the faith. The governance of each school in light of this critical ministry must take particular care to safeguard the integrity of the faith in all aspects of the school's administration, curriculum, activities, and faculty and staff. In the case of schools with governing boards, the same duty rests with the members of the board.

*"The mission of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is to build a fervent community of intentional and dedicated missionary disciples of the Risen Lord and steadfast stewards of God's creation who seek to become saints. Accordingly, the community of Catholic faithful in this Diocese is committed to the discipleship and stewardship way of life as commanded by Christ Our Savior and as revealed by Sacred Scripture and Tradition." **Fourth Diocesan Synod, statute #1.***

*"In the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, 'all pastoral initiatives must be set in relation to holiness' and will invite people to a life of discipleship and stewardship." **Fourth Diocesan Synod, statute #2.***

113.1. Policy Every member of a governing board of a Catholic School shall conduct him or herself in a moral and ethical manner consistent with Catholic principles in his or her official capacity as a board member or in any public matters. Every board member is a representative of the Catholic Church to the faithful and to the outside world and must conduct him or herself in a way that does not contradict the doctrine and moral teaching of the Catholic Church.

Procedures

- a) Some of the actions which violate this policy on standards of conduct include but are not limited to:
- 1) Immoral or unethical conduct, actions, or lifestyles when such has an adverse impact on the Church, the Diocese, or the School, or becomes publicly scandalous as determined by the Diocesan Bishop.
 - 2) Public espousal or promotion of teachings or conduct that contradicts the doctrine and moral teaching of the Catholic Church and which may cause scandal as determined by the Diocesan Bishop.
 - 3) Any social media engagement or other behavior that violates standards of safe environment for children.

113.2. Policy Every member of a governing board of a Catholic School shall complete Protecting God's Children training and receive a background check conducted by the diocesan office for Safe Environment prior to commencing his or her term.

113.3. Policy Any board member who violates this policy will either remediate any concerns to the satisfaction of the Diocesan Bishop or be removed from the board.

Procedures

- a) The Diocesan Bishop has full authority to determine violations and remedies related to this policy.
- b) The specific procedure to remove a member of a governing board will be provided for in the School's by-laws. Failure of a school to remove a member pursuant to this policy as determined by the Diocesan Bishop could cause the school to incur civil or canonical penalties as determined by law.

113.4. Policy Every board member must sign an acknowledgement of this policy and commit to adherence to it.

113.5. Policy Only Catholics in good standing are eligible to serve as board members on a governing board unless explicitly approved by the Bishop. Such exceptions should be rare and no governing board should include more than two, non-Catholic representatives.