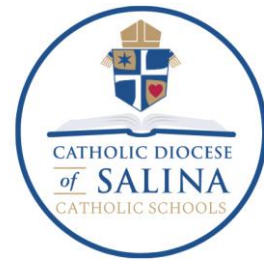




# CATHOLIC DIOCESE *of* SALINA



## GENDER POLICY FOR SCHOOLS

*All efforts to form and accompany young people, especially in relation to human gender, must recall the intrinsic dignity of the human person. It is necessary to affirm that “the dignity of the human person is rooted in [their] creation in the image and likeness of God.”<sup>1</sup> Image and likeness find their expression in each of the two sexes as they provide an “image of the power and tenderness of God, with equal dignity though in a different way.”<sup>2</sup> Thus, male and female are unique and complementary. Moreover, “biological sex and the socio-cultural role of sex (gender) can be distinguished but not separated.”<sup>3</sup>*

*Today, this reality of creation, sex, and gender is sometimes misunderstood and ignored. Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children; therefore, Catholic schools partner with parents in communicating the Gospel and drawing young people closer to Jesus Christ. The Diocese of Salina provides this school policy, rooted in the Catholic understanding of gender, to guide the accompaniment offered to those experiencing gender dysphoria and/or incongruence in our school communities.*

*1. In the Diocese of Salina, all Catholic schools shall respect the biological sex, of each student and shall apply all policies and procedures in relation to that student according to each student’s God-given biological sex regardless of what might appear on state-issued documents such as birth certificates.*

*2. All students shall conduct themselves in accord with their God-given biological sex as it relates to the use of personal pronouns, dress code, use of school bathrooms, locker rooms, shower facilities, and participation in school-sponsored activities. All official school documents shall likewise reflect the student’s biological sex.*

*2a. Schools, administrators, teachers, other students, and anyone else affiliated with our Catholic Schools are under no obligation whatsoever to refer to any student in any way that recognizes said student to be anything other than the sex (s)he was assigned at conception by God.*

*3. Provided that any given student and his/her parents or legal guardian(s) are willing to comply with the above stated policy, admission or retention will not be denied based solely on a student’s experience of gender dysphoria. If a student experiences gender dysphoria and/or incongruence, school leaders and pastors shall partner with parents to establish an accompaniment plan. This plan must follow the teachings of the Catholic faith.*

*4. If at any time, parents, guardians or students desire accommodations or accompaniment that do not follow this policy, it may be necessary to begin the school transfer process for the good of the student and the school community. At every stage of this process, parents and guardians will be invited to their parish for pastoral support.*

<sup>1</sup>Catechism of the Catholic Church 1700.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 2335.

<sup>3</sup> Pope Francis, *Amoris laetitia*, 56