



Essential Elements Validation Process 2015-2020 Cycle

Administration and Steering Committee Information

The charism of Blessed Edmund Rice is a special gift to the church. This gift is lived out through schools and other educational initiatives through education within the “evangelizing mission of the Church.” To ensure that this charism continues, the Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education call us to accountability. Are we true to Blessed Edmund’s “vision of education?” Are our policies and practices consistent with the values we profess to hold? Are the schools striving to embody the concerns of the Christian Brothers as expressed in recent General Chapters? Questions such as these lead us to a process of validation. The results of this validation should be a source of growth for deepening the influence of the Essential Elements in the life of the school.

In order to fulfill its responsibility for the implementation of the mission within the schools of the Province, the Provincial Leadership Team of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North American, mandates a system of accountability for the schools that:

- Ensures the ongoing commitment to and development of the Mission of the school and alignment with the values and concerns of the Congregation of Christian Brothers;
- Creates a process of reflection and self-study;
- Calls for a report on the progress and growth of The Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education in the life of the school every five years. The 2015 – 2020 cycle report focuses on four specific content areas:
 1. Implementation of the School Growth Plan from the 2009 – 2014 cycle;
 2. How Essential Elements III and IV are being lived today, i.e.,
 - Stand in Solidarity with those Marginalized by Poverty and Injustice
 - Foster and Invigorate a Community of Faith
 3. How the living of Essential Elements III & IV will be furthered in the future
 4. A “Profile of a Graduate” drawing on all of the Essential Elements

(See pp. 2-3 for further explanation.)
- Includes a site visit by a member of the Office of Educational Services and a team of educators from Edmund Rice Schools;
- Concludes with a letter from the Director of Evangelization of Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America affirming the school’s continuing status as an ERCBNA school and a proclamation to display in the school.

EEV Content Areas for Self-Study Report / Visit

1. **Progress toward / Completion of School Growth Plan from your last Essential Element Evaluation**
2. **Living the Essential Elements Today**
3. **Plans for the Future**

Special Focus: For # 2 and #3, we are asking all schools to articulate their identity as Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice spirit and tradition by focusing on two of the Essential Elements:

III Stand in Solidarity with those marginalized by Poverty and Injustice.

IV Foster and Invigorate a Community of Faith

The rationale behind asking all of the schools to focus on these two Essential Elements, which stress Faith Community and Solidarity, is three-fold:

1. To strengthen the spiritual bonds between the school communities and the Congregation of Christian Brothers who declared at their 2014 Congregation Chapter, **Drawn by Mystery, Destined for Life**:

“At the core of our call to be brother for the world is our being drawn into the Mystery we call God. At this pivotal time in the history of the congregation, we are awakened to the presence of God in our midst, as we seek meaningful and respectful ways of standing in solidarity with the whole Earth Community.”¹

“It is the agenda of the world that sets the mission directions of the Church and our Congregation.”²

[We are called] “to engage with one another as we are drawn to Mystery in the day-to-day events of our lives.”³

2. To bring the schools into closer relationship with other schools in the Consortium, as carriers of the Catholic vision in the spirit of Edmund Rice in North America.

¹ *Drawn to Mystery, Destined for Life: The Thirty-First Congregation Chapter 2014*, p. 6

² *Ibid.*, p. 9

³ *Ibid.*, p. 20

3. To foster connections and shared values with Edmund Rice schools and ministries all over the globe, especially as the Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders project develops.

Special Lenses: Schools / Self-study groups are encouraged:

- To use the themes of Eight Chapter Calls as a lens through which they can view their current fidelity to EE III and IV and make plans for the future. The calls speak of “being drawn to Mystery,” “engaging with one another,” “right relationships,” and “joyful communities.” They also speak of engaging “in advocacy with the voiceless, the marginalized and oppressed,” “working collaboratively within the Church and with others,” and welcoming as “companions all inspired by the charism of Edmund.”
- To evaluate their lived experience of EE III and IV through the lens of Christian Brother Congregation expression “Compassion, Presence, Liberation.”

4. Develop a profile of an “Edmund Rice Graduate” based on the experience of your school.

Drawing on all of the Essential Elements, describe the specific attitudes, behaviors, and competencies which would characterize graduates who have integrated the values of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education in their lives.

In the future we would hope to gather the various schools’ profiles in order to create a single “Edmund Rice Graduate Profile.”

Templates for the self-study and reports can be found on the Edmund Rice Schools Network www.edmundriceschools.org under “[Resources / Essential Elements Validation.](#)”