

2312 CLASS SIZE

The Board of Education directs that the number of students assigned to any one class be governed by considerations of instructional quality and economy of operation.

The Board shall establish a range for the minimum and maximum number of students that shall be assigned to regular classes at the elementary level and secondary level.

The Superintendent shall prepare guidelines for class size. Maximum limits shall take into account the subject matter, type of instruction, ability of students, availability of aides, and use of special facilities and/or equipment, and may be waived to accommodate the demands of a temporary increase in enrollment.

ELEMENTARY CLASS SIZE (K-5)

At the elementary level, the following class size maximums and minimums shall be established:

	Maximum	Minimum
Kindergarten	22	15
First Grade	22	15
Second Grade	23	16
Third Grade	24	17
Fourth Grade	26	19
Fifth Grade	26	19

1. If a class falls below the stated minimum, the administration shall make the adjustment to bring the class size above the minimum.
2. If a class falls above the stated maximum, the administration shall make the adjustment to bring the class size to at or below the maximum. If the class size adjustment would bring a new class below the minimum, the administration, in lieu of creating a new class, shall provide a group teacher for reading and/or mathematics, or aide assistance.
3. The Board recognizes the impact that teaming and the mainstreaming of Special Services students have on increasing student/teacher ratios for instruction. To maintain equitable class size, Special Services students



who are mainstreamed in regular classrooms for any portion of the day will be included when determining class enrollment.

4. In certain circumstances, the Superintendent shall have the authority to make specific exceptions to the above rules for individual classes. In determining an exception, the Superintendent shall give consideration to unique student abilities and/or disabilities; the teacher's strength and level of experience; the amount and variety of support staff; the availability of classrooms; classroom size; the potential for disruption to an on-going class; class size average per grade level; and the financial condition of the school district.

This exception is designed to be responsive to those factors that make a class more, or less, teachable. Anticipation of fall class size and composition will be discussed by the principal and teacher prior to the end of each school year as necessary. Criteria and characteristics identified above shall be considered, as well as the value of utilizing instructional aides in unique circumstances. This information will be forwarded to the Superintendent or his/her designee for review.

Given the data and recommendations, and upon further exploration, the Superintendent may allow the actual number of assigned students to a particular elementary class to exceed the established class size limits by ~~two~~ **four** students or fewer.

SECONDARY LEVEL CLASS SIZE (Grades 6-8)

At the middle school level, a desired range for the maximum and minimum number of students in most classes shall be determined by the Board based upon the advice of the Superintendent.

Staff assignments in each school will be made by the principal within personnel allotments established for each building by the Superintendent and within the class size guidelines established by the Board. Personnel allocations to a building will reflect the number and type of special programs in that building, as well as class size guidelines broadly applicable for most secondary school classes.

At the middle school level, the Average Class Size in the following program areas shall be:

	Average Class Size
English, Math, Science, Social	20 – 25 students



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Studies, World Languages, Career & Technical Education	
Physical Health Education	30 – 35 students
Keyboarding	28 – 32 students
Related Arts (excluding Performing such as Orchestra, Chorus, Band, etc.)	20 – 25 students

SECONDARY LEVEL CLASS SIZE (Grades 9-12)

At the high school level, a desired range for the maximum and minimum number of students in most classes shall be determined by the Board based upon the advice of the Superintendent.

Staff assignments in each school will be made by the principal within personnel allotments established for each building by the Superintendent and within the class size guidelines established by the Board. Personnel allocations to a building will reflect the number and type of special programs in that building, as well as class size guidelines broadly applicable for most secondary school classes.

At the high school level, the Average Class Size in the following program areas shall be:

	Average Class Size
English, Math, Science, Social Studies, World Languages, Career & Technical Education, Health Education, Drivers Education, Art, Home Economics	25 – 30 students
Physical Education (excluding Adaptive, Health Education, Drivers Education)	30 – 38 students
Keyboarding	28 – 32 students
Music (excluding Performing such as Orchestra, Chorus, Band, etc.)	25 – 30 students



“Average Class Size” in the above tables are intended as a planning tool for decisions about personnel allocations to most programs and shall be considered general planning targets rather than rigid requirements. The figures shall not be construed to mean that all classes must fit into the indicated ranges.

Classes that are planned for fewer than 15 students in the following school year will be reviewed and approved each spring by the Superintendent in consultation with building administration. Decisions shall be made on a class-by-class basis to offer, or not to offer, the class, or to seek other acceptable structures.

The Board does not endorse the unnecessary breach of upper class size range as noted above. Nonetheless, the Board acknowledges that building administrators require flexibility to respond to varying student needs and enrollments. The Board directs that individual classes not exceed the stated upper class size range by more than five students. No building administrator may exceed the upper class size limit indicated above without the express approval of the Superintendent who shall report same to the Board of Education at its next regularly scheduled meeting that the upper class size limit has been exceeded with a full explanation of the reason therefore, and what steps, if any, are being taken to alleviate the deviation from this policy.

Programs Subject to Special Consideration

Enrollments in classes which are designed as pilot programs shall be allowed to be below established minimum limits for one year. As part of the approval of the pilot program, the Administration must explain why the minimum class size is necessary and what the impact of that minimum class size will be on other classes. If the Administration seeks thereafter to implement the pilot program as the general program, the Administration shall explain the effect of the program on the class size being set by this policy.

Class sizes shall be permitted below established minimum limits in the following programs and in others by the express permission of the Superintendent:

1. English/Social Studies for the English Language Learners;
2. Special remedial and enrichment programs such as Compensatory Education, Title I, skills centers and labs and other programs for students with learning deficits or unique needs;
3. Adaptive Physical Education;



4. Selected specialized programs where space and equipment limitations prevent class size from falling within guidelines for most other classes;
5. Special Services programs for disabled students;
6. Alternative Education programs; or
7. Other specialized programs that the Board may approve.

The Superintendent shall report to the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting of the granting of such permission, with an explanation of the reason therefor and the expected length thereof. Such permission shall not extend beyond the balance of the school year.

Adopted: 6 May 2002
Revised: 19 January 2011

