

Instruction

CLASS SIZE

6151(a)

The Board's goal is to create a culture of deliberate excellence through its commitment to nurture the potential in all students and support their access to curriculum and opportunities.

The Board recognizes the importance of opportunities for a wide range of courses that appeal to students with various interests, and that achievement and engagement in elementary and middle school are strong precursors to high school success.

The relationship between class size and student learning is complex and is affected by grade level, subject area, nature of the pupils, learning objectives, instructional methods and procedures, and physical environment. The goal of the class size policy is the establishment of appropriate class sizes for the pupils, the teacher, the subject matter, and the teaching methods of a particular grade, class, or course. Budgetary implications also factor into class size considerations.

At the elementary level:

- Class sizes shall not exceed 23 in regular classrooms, and 21 at McKinley, in grades K-2. The Superintendent shall make all decisions on expansion based on staff and space availability from the first day of classes to the seventh.
- Class sizes shall not exceed 25 in regular classrooms, and 23 at McKinley, in grades 3-5. The Superintendent shall make all decisions on expansion based on the staff and space availability from the first day of classes to the seventh.
- Before the first day of classes, the number of class sections must adhere to the class size guidelines.
- The District shall not collapse any K-5 section after the end of the day prior to the first day of classes, unless doing so on or before the first day of classes and through seven calendar days after the first day of classes, excluding any holidays, is in the Superintendent's discretion necessary to fulfill the expansion of another K-5 grade level section.
- Collapsing a section shall not result in any K-5 grade level class being above the class size threshold.
- No K-5 section shall be at or above the class size threshold when there is a seat in that schools' grade that would keep class sizes below the class size threshold.

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6151(b)

- Three weeks prior to the start of the new school year, the District shall review the enrollment in sections at each elementary school by grade level. If on that date, any grade level, at any of the elementary schools is within 2 students of that school's grade level total allowed cap, then the District will automatically add an additional grade level section to that school for the upcoming school year.
- If enrollment increases above the elementary class size threshold in grades K-5 of any grade level from the first day of classes on and another section is not added, a full time 1.0 FTE paraeducator will be provided until a certified teacher is hired, unless a student teacher is already assigned or an intern is available in the building. The additional educator shall be primarily dedicated to the class that is above the class size threshold.
- K-5 homeroom and subject area full-size classrooms shall not be supplanted for non-instructional purposes or specialized programming when a full-size classroom is needed for a homeroom or subject area full-size classroom.

At the Middle and High School Levels (grades 6-12)

- For normal class instruction, a class exceeding 25 shall be considered undesirable.
- Secondary courses may be above 25 due to the physical environment (outdoors, auditorium, gym, larger spaces), instruction methodologies, and nature of the specific courses. (e.g. PE and performance-based music/chorus).
- Class sizes at the secondary level may be lower than 15 in the educational interest of providing student supports, in introducing and/or continuing a sequence of course work, in meeting the graduation requirements, and where the physical environment necessitates.

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