

CLASS SIZE POLICY

CLASS SIZE CRITERIA: Class staffing decisions at all levels will be made with due consideration to the criteria listed below:

- Number of students/facility constraints
- Current educational philosophy, instructional and assessment techniques
- Range of student abilities; special needs situation
- Resources available (such as staff and materials)
- Scheduling constraints
- State mandates
- Student and teacher safety
- Research and recommendation of prominent authorities
- Financial constraints

In as much as possible, considering the criteria above, the following class size targets are established (NOTE: These ranges are considered targets rather than definitive limits).

GRADE LEVEL	CLASS SIZE RANGE
Kindergarten	15-18
Grades 1 to 3	17-20
Grades 4 to 5	18-22
Grades 6 to 8	20-22
Grades 9 to 12	20-24

Exceptions to the application of this policy may include band, chorus and other specialized classes.

Each year during the budget process, Principals, in conjunction with department leaders and staff, will develop recommendations to the Superintendent for staffing which are consistent with the class size range in this policy. The School Committee will consider the class size targets, as well as other factors and situations, when staff budget decisions are made.

If a class size in excess of the target range materializes prior to or during a school year, then the Principal, with the advice of department leaders and staff, must decide what, if anything, must be done. The in-depth review process of class size must consider the judgment of staff and input from parents. Recommendations for additional staffing must be presented to the School Committee through the Superintendent, if problems cannot be resolved through reassignment of existing staff.

Approved: February 22, 2010

Amended: May 12, 2014

Reviewed: March 23, 2015