

ARTICLE XIII - CLASS SIZE

A. The Board of Education and the Federation are committed to having the most effective educational program possible. To help achieve this goal, the Board will make every effort to provide sufficient funds to permit the school units to establish optimum adult/pupil ratios. The Board of Education encourages flexibility and originality in staffing patterns of individual schools to properly meet the individual educational needs of the students served. Class sizes may exceed the maximum stated in the Education Code, for which the District incurs a financial penalty, for thirty-three (33) in Kindergarten, thirty (30) for 1 - 3, and thirty-two (32) for 4 - 6, only on recommendation of the Superintendent. The Board reserves the right to restrict the size of an instructional class if there is evidence that pupil needs are not being met.

B. Staffing Ratios shall be:

K-3 1:23 4-6 1:29 7 - 8 1:27 9 -12 1:29

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of minimizing class size in grades K - 3, and is committed to allocating resources toward that goal. In the event that State funding for K-3 class size reduction is reduced or eliminated, the District and GSCFR reserve the right to reopen negotiations on K-3 staffing ratios and K-3 class size.

C. Class Size

1. The District average for K-3 shall not exceed twenty two point ninety four (22.94) students per class. The District average for 4-6 shall not exceed thirty-two (32) students per class. If an individual class exceeds this maximum number the principal is required to implement one of the following:

a. Transfer student to another class or site.

b. Provide additional aide time.

2. The District secondary class size average shall not exceed thirty-three (33) students. The secondary class size average for physical education and performing arts classes shall not exceed forty-two (42) students.

If within three (3) weeks of the start of a semester an individual class size at the secondary level exceeds this average by three (3) students, the following options shall be considered by the department and administration and one or more implemented as soon as possible:

- a. Transferring students to another class
- b. Opening a new section(s).
- c. Balancing the teacher's assignment so that his/her daily student contacts not exceed one hundred and seventy five (175) - (except in physical education and performing arts classes).
- d. Provide compensation for excess students at a per diem, per student rate at the secondary schools. This will be calculated monthly, and revised monthly, September through June, based upon the number of students enrolled and in attendance on the last instructional day of each month with adjustments reflected in a subsequent paycheck. This will be revised in qualifying monthly increments. Teachers may elect to waive this additional compensation when exceeding the super max as defined in contract.

The per idem, per student rate for the secondary schools shall be calculated as follows: employee's annual salary divided by the number of work days in the school year divided by one hundred seventy-five (175) multiplied by the number of student contacts in excess of one hundred seventy-five (175).

If an individual class size has not been reduced or mutually agreed upon, the teacher may appeal to the Superintendent, or his/her designee, who shall make the final decision on the class size within five (5) days of his/her receipt of appeal. Exceptions to the above may occur when there is agreement between the department and administration that some classes exceed this maximum in order that other classes in that department may have smaller class sizes or a teacher agrees to exceed the class size maximum on an individual basis.

- D. If a student(s) with special needs is mainstreamed into regular classes and demands considerable extra teacher time and preparation, the teacher may

request a conference. If a conference is requested, the principal and the special needs teacher(s) involved with the student(s) shall meet with the classroom teacher to determine solutions.

- E. In secondary activity classes which have a limited number of work stations, such as but not limited to, industry and technology education classes, science classes, art classes, home economics classes and computer classes, class size shall be determined by mutual agreement between the department and the principal. The department, or a teacher, in such course may request a conference with his/her principal if it is believed that the class size adversely impacts upon the educational program. This conference shall take place within five (5) days of the request. If mutual agreement cannot be reached on class size the teacher may appeal to the Superintendent, or his/her designee, who shall make the final decision on class size within five (5) days of his/her receipt of the appeal.

F. Combination Classes

1. Combination classes should be formed only when absolutely necessary or by staff request.
2. Teacher input should weigh heavily in determining which students are placed in combination classes.
3. The grade ratio for combination classes should be close to 50:50. A ratio should be no more than 40:60 with 60% of the students in the higher grade level.
4. The limit of twenty-five (25) should be considered as the desirable class size but not the mandated maximum.
5. When possible, new teachers should not be assigned to combination classes.
6. Administration and grade level teachers should negotiate the assignment of combination classes. Factors to consider include teacher interest, experience, personal concerns, and teachers on waivers or temporary status.
7. Teachers assigned to combination classes will be allocated \$300.00 for additional classroom supplies.