

Policy

CLASS SIZE

The Mount Laurel Township School District Board of Education believes that smaller class sizes promote effective learning. Creating reasonable student/teacher ratios helps ensure that staffing resource are balanced to optimize successful student achievement of the districts educational goals. Class size maximums shall be established, to the extent budgetary resources permit, to provide a suitable learning environment for students in grades K-8.

The chief school administrator shall recommend for board approval the number of class sections for each course or grade level. He/she shall take into consideration such factors as pupil needs, curriculum requirements, types of instructional setting, district finances and space or equipment limitations.

Grade	Maximum
Elementary (Kindergarten through 4)	23
Intermediate (5 through 6)	28
Middle School s (7 through 8)	29

Elective courses with fewer than 10 pupils shall be reviewed by the board of education for approval.

Particular attention shall be paid to space-per-pupil requirements of the State Department of Education. Classes for children with special needs and/or special subject areas shall be according to law and may not conform to the above referenced maximums. The building principal retains authority to consider the following when developing class sections:

- A. Academic ability ranges of the class;
- B. Special needs of any of the students in the class;
- C. Age level of the students involved.

When class size meets or exceeds the maximums set forth, the board, upon recommendation from the chief school administrator, shall discuss the following alternatives:

- A. When class size reaches the prescribed maximum, the possibility of a part- time teaching aide will be considered;
- B. If this option is deemed insufficient, the board will consider employing a full- time teaching aide or its equivalent;
- C. If class sizes in all sections reach maximum on or before August 21, upon recommendation of the chief school administrator, the board may add an additional section if space is available and budget resources allow.

If the class size maximum is surpassed in any class section during the school year, the board may consider implementing the options "A" and "B" above, upon recommendation of the chief school administrator, if

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funding is available. Teaching aides assigned to a class for the purposes of IEP compliance shall not be considered as an aide for the purposes of this policy.

The chief school administrator shall report to the board as requested on class size and school enrollments.

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 Revised: May 24, 2005; April 22, 2008
 NJSBA Review/Update: June 2013
 Readopted: January 28, 2014

Key Words

Class Size, Space-per-pupil Requirements

<u>Legal References:</u>	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:11-1	General mandatory powers and duties
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:54-20	Powers of board (county vocational schools)
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:8-2.1	Authority for educational goals and standards
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:14-4.7	Program criteria: special class programs, secondary and vocational rehabilitation
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:23A-9.5	Commissioner to ensure achievement of the Core Curriculum Content Standards
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:26-2.1 <i>et seq.</i>	Long-Range Facilities Plans
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:32-8.2	School enrollment
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:32-8.3	School attendance

Possible

<u>Cross References:</u>	3240	Tuition income
	*5118	Nonresidents
	*5120	Assessment of individual needs
	*5145.4	Equal educational opportunity
	6150	Instructional arrangements
	*6171.4	Special education
	*7110	Long-range facilities planning

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.