

CLASS SIZE

The Mount Laurel Board of Education desires to keep class sizes in the ranges where effective learning can best occur. The Board of Education recognizes the need to monitor student/teacher ratios in order to balance staff utilization and class size goals. Class size maximums, to the extent budgetary resources permit, are established as an effort to provide a suitable learning environment for students in grades K-8.

- Elementary Grades (Kindergarten through 4)
Maximum -- 23
- Intermediate Grades (5 through 6)
Maximum – 28
- Middle School Grades (7 through 8)
Maximum – 29

Classes for children with special needs and/or special subject areas 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 Superintendent, 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 Superintendent, 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 option a) or b), upon recommendation of the Superintendent, if 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 Superintendent shall report to the Board monthly on class size and school enrollments.

CLASS SIZE (Continued)

Legal References:

N.J.A.C. 6:26-2.4

Date Adopted: April 30, 1997

Date: Second Reading and Final Adoption: May 24, 2005

Date: Revised – First Reading – March 19, 2008

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