

Policy

CLASS SIZE

It shall be the policy of the Franklin Lakes Board of Education to make every effort to maintain class sizes that are educationally supportive of quality education and economically sound.

The Board of Education understands that achieving this goal is dependent upon the financial ability of the school district and the efficient usage of all of its resources, including its physical facilities. Thus, the Board also directs the Chief School Administrator to work with the principals in establishing the most appropriate usage of the school buildings. The principal, working under the supervision of the Chief School Administrator and in cooperation with members of the school staff concerned, shall be responsible for the assignment to classes of all students in his/her school.

Grade Level/Generally Not to Exceed

Recommended Ranges

Kindergarten 18

Recommended 14 – 18

Grades 1 – 3 20

Grade 4 – 5 22

Recommended 16 – 20

Grades 6 – 8 24

Recommended 18 – 22

The Board may, when average class size moves beyond **above** the recommended **range maximum**, approve teacher assistance through the use of additional certified teachers or approved aides. Class size may vary between schools and shall generally not exceed the recommended **range maximum**. This policy does not preclude the Board, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, from adjusting class size due to extenuating circumstances.

Elementary Class Size K-5

1. If a class falls above the recommended **range maximum**, the administration shall make adjustments to bring the class size to within the recommended **range maximum**. If the class size adjustment would bring a new class below the recommended **range maximum**, the administration, in lieu of opening a new class, and after considering all of the ramifications, may provide an additional teacher or classroom assistant to the class that falls above the recommended **range maximum**.
2. In certain circumstances, the ~~Chief School Administrator~~ **Chief School Administrator** shall have the authority to make specific exceptions to the above ~~rules~~ for individual classes. In determining an exception, the ~~Chief School Administrator~~ **Chief School Administrator** shall give consideration to curricular needs, the educational needs of students, staffing matters, room availability, classroom size, class size average per grade level, and the financial condition of the school district.

Middle School Class Size 6-8

At the middle school level, a recommended ~~range~~ maximum for class size varies based upon programmatic needs and capacity. In grades 6-8, class size shall generally not exceed 24 students.

The Board recognizes the impact of teaming and special programming on the middle school schedule. Staff assignments will be made by the Principal within personnel allotments established for the school by the Chief School Administrator, reflecting the number and type of special programs offered at the school, as well as fluctuations in enrollment.

Other Considerations

Decisions pertaining to class size and student-teacher ratio involve factors that are complex and varied. These factors include:

- A. Number of students assigned to supplemental programs, ~~BSI~~, special education, ESL, remedial, advanced and gifted/talented students programs.
- B. Facilities
- C. Personnel
- D. Budget
- E. Achievement test results or other comparable data.
- F. Teacher recommendation.
- G. Emotional, social composition of class.
- H. Future enrollment trends.

As a class approaches maximum size or as a need becomes apparent, the administration shall conduct a study of these variables to ascertain student needs and the advantages/disadvantages of keeping the class intact.

Adopted: June 5, 2001
 Revised: March 4, 2008; June 2017
 NJSBA Review/Update: September 2009
 Readopted: February 10, 2015

Key Words

Class Size, Space-per-student Requirements

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1 General mandatory powers and duties
N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20 Powers of board (county vocational schools)
N.J.A.C. 6A:8-2.1 Authority for educational goals and standards
N.J.A.C. 6A:10A et seq. Improving Standards-Driven Instruction and Literacy and Increasing Efficiency in Abbott School Districts

See particularly
Appendix A

CLASS SIZE (continued)

File Code: 6151

<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:23-8.3	Commissioner to ensure achievement of the Core Curriculum Content Standards
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:26-2.1 <u>et seq.</u>	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

Cross References:

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.