

CLASS SIZE

The Board recognizes that new forms of school organizations and innovations will govern the number of students assigned to a group. The basic concern of the Board is that the size of the class be educationally sound and suited to the needs of the students. Other factors that may enter into determining class size are flexibility, available facilities, age of the students, grade level, and the subject to be taught.

1. Smaller classes shall be desirable at the primary grade level.
2. Larger classes are permissible for certain types of instruction, e.g., physical education, lectures, etc., where large group instruction is appropriate.
3. In all courses requiring specially designed facilities and equipment, enrollment shall be limited on a priority basis to those students needing such courses in order to meet graduation requirements. These courses include science and vocational education.

It is recognized that, on the secondary level, the total daily student load of the teacher is more important than the size of any one class.

The School Board assigns licensed instructional personnel in a manner that produces division-wide ratios of students in average daily membership to full-time equivalent teaching positions, excluding special education teachers, principals, assistant principals, counselors and librarians that are not greater than the following ratios:

- 24 to one in kindergarten with no class being larger than 29 students; if the average daily membership in any kindergarten class exceeds 24 pupils, a full-time teacher's aide will be assigned to the class;
- 24 to one in grades one, two and three with no class being larger than 30 students;
- 25 to one in grades four through six with no class being larger than 35 students; and
- 24 to one in English classes in grades six through 12.

After September 30 of any school year, anytime the number of students in a class exceeds the class size limit established by this policy, the school division will notify the parent of each student in such class of such fact no later than 10 days after the date on which the class exceeded the class size limit. The notification shall state the reason that the class size exceeds the class size limit and describe the measures that the school division will take to reduce the class size to comply with this policy.

In addition, the School Board assigns instructional personnel in a manner that produces schoolwide ratios of students in average daily memberships to full-time equivalent teaching positions of 21 to one in middle schools and high schools.

When determining the assignment of instructional and other licensed personnel for purposes of this policy, full-time students of approved virtual school programs are not included.

Adopted: July 1, 1993
Amended: July 12, 1999; November 14, 2013; September 22, 2016
Reviewed: December 9, 2004

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 22.1-253.13:2