

Class Size

The Board recognizes the relevancy of goals for instruction, teaching techniques, staff utilization, class size, and effective learning. Accordingly, it is appropriate for the Board to have guidelines for implementing a policy on class size, which takes into account the various factors relating to effective learning.

Therefore, the administration will make every effort to keep class size at an educationally effective level, taking into account the availability of qualified staff, curriculum requirements, facilities (space available and equipment), the particular “chemistry” of a classroom of individuals, the enrollment of sequential grade levels, funds, and state requirements. Particular attention will be given to the placement of children with special needs. In all instances, the district will comply with the N.H. Department of Education’s current standards related to class size. As of January 1, 2009, these standards are:

- Kindergarten – grade 2, 25 students or fewer per teacher, provided that each school shall strive to achieve the class size of 20 students or fewer per teacher;
- Grades 3-5, 30 students or fewer per teacher, provided that each school shall strive to achieve the class size of 25 students or fewer per teacher;
- Middle and senior high school, 30 students or fewer per teacher;
- Class size for laboratory classes shall not exceed 24 students.

When the above state guidelines do not match our grade structure, i.e., a multi-age group in Sandwich, the state guideline for the lowest grade in the combined class will apply.

When a K-8 class size falls at or below the following parameters: Grades K-2 – 8 students; Grades 3-8 - 10 students; the board will provide an opportunity for advice from the administration, any Board-created advisory committee, and the Inter-Lakes community, in determining the appropriate course of action. Consideration will be given to the developmental stage of the students involved, personnel, and financial concerns.

In order for any high school class to be offered with ten (10) or fewer students, the Principal and Superintendent will seek approval from the Board.

If a class is overcrowded, the building principal shall consult with the Superintendent to seek remedies. The Inter-Lakes School Board will be advised of these situations.

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