

Addison Central School District

Policy: Class Size

File Code: D6

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Warned: November 18, 2022

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Policy

It is the intent of this policy to ensure the district maintains equitable access for all ACSD students to learning environments that are appropriate for academic success, social and emotional wellbeing, and are sufficient to support the district's educational programming. The Board will comply with Sections 15 and 16 of Act 153 of 2010 requiring superintendents to work with school boards to develop policy guidelines for minimum, maximum and optimal class sizes in regular and technical education classes. Class size guidelines will be used to inform annual decisions related to staffing and program offerings. A "class" shall be defined as a group of students composed of one or two grades of students unless otherwise authorized by the superintendent.

Implementation

1. The superintendent or his or her designee shall, in consultation with building principals, develop district wide class minimum, maximum and optimum class size guidelines that take into account the instructional needs of specific elementary grade intervals and required and elective courses at the secondary level.

Current ACSD guidelines are as follows:

K: A minimum of 10, maximum of 19

Grades 1-3: A minimum of 10, maximum of 20

Grades 4-5: A minimum of 10, maximum of 24

The optimal average class size taken across all grades is 15

2. Class size guidelines in the district may vary as necessary to reflect differences among schools such as school size and programmatic needs.
3. The guidelines shall ensure compliance with state or federal requirements related to matters such as student-teacher ratios, special education, technical education and multilingual learners.

4. The superintendent shall report to the Board at least annually on the implementation of this policy, and shall include in his or her report information related to the use of the guidelines in determining actual class sizes and program offerings in the schools within the district.

Policy Contingencies

1. If a class exceeds or is projected to exceed the upper limit of D6 guidelines and the superintendent determines the integrity of the educational program is jeopardized, the superintendent has the authority to divide that class into sections that meet policy guidelines.
2. If a class is projected to have a size that is below the minimum D6 guidelines and the superintendent determines the integrity of the educational program is jeopardized, the superintendent will invite families across ACSD to indicate if they prefer to have their student move to that school and class. Families who volunteer to send their student to the receiving ACSD school can also choose to send the sibling(s) of that student to the same new school pending the superintendent's determination that all aspects of this policy continue to be met. The district will make every effort to ensure that volunteer families can be provided transportation to the new school under existing bus routes. Given the broad geographic spread of our district, however, under certain circumstances, transportation may not be guaranteed. Under this policy, it is anticipated that students who volunteer to move to the new school will be enrolled at that school for the duration of their elementary school education.
3. The superintendent will ensure that any movement of students across schools will take class size, school capacity, and equity considerations into account ensuring compliance with D6 and other policies across all ACSD schools and classrooms.
4. If indicated preferences do not adequately ensure class sizes that comply with D6, the superintendent can assign a cohort of students—the entire class—to another school in order to ensure integrity of the educational program. In this case, ACSD will provide transportation for these students to and from their newly assigned school. These students can request to attend a different school than the one they are assigned by the superintendent, in accordance with policy C30. In this case, ACSD may not be able to provide transportation for their student to and from school.

