

Instruction

Class Size Guidelines

Class size guidelines for The Woodstock Academy are anchored in educational research and best practices. Best practice indicates that reducing large class sizes improves the quality of interactions among all members of a school community. Additionally, smaller class sizes enable teachers to develop stronger teacher-student connections, reduce discipline issues, and allows for greater individualization of classroom instruction. While there are many factors that determine student success, class size is the foundation of creating effective student-centered learning environments.

Therefore, the Board of Trustees is committed to maintaining appropriate class sizes to facilitate the maximum social and educational development of all students. The Board of Trustees recognizes that the student/teacher ratio is an important aspect of an effective educational program. The Board of Trustees also recognizes that there is no perfect class size number. Rather, appropriate class size is a function of many factors including student developmental levels, class make-up, type of class, and educational need. Class size guidelines should not be interpreted as absolute “not to exceed” or “never less than” numbers. These guidelines shall be viewed as reasonable ranges of typical class size for each instructional level.

The Board of Trustees recognizes that the operation of the educational program is the responsibility of the Head of School. Therefore, the administration shall operate the educational program within class size guidelines. However, the Board of Trustees authorizes the Head of School or his/her designee to make adjustments in class size and/or consider other alternatives in the configuration of classes. When determining the necessity of class size adjustments or alternative configurations the administration shall consider various factors including, but not limited to, the following:

- The mission and goals of the school;
- The number of students with special education and/or remedial education needs;
- The number of students who have not met goal on specific performance indicators;
- The history of the students in the school;
- The balance of student skills and personalities;
- The overall school enrollment balanced with student needs and number of teaching sections available;
- Financial and building constraints; and
- Other pertinent factors.

The Board of Trustees endorse an average class size of 18-22 as the range for typical high school regular education classes by departments. But it is also understood that class size may vary from this range as dictated by the needs of students and the considerations listed previously.

Secondary school courses such as advanced placement, honors, world language, music, art, certain science, mathematics, technology, and classes being piloted may be offered at a lower or higher class size. Therefore, secondary class sizes may have a lower limit of ten students and an upper limit of twenty-eight students.

Special Instruction

Special education and other support classes may require lower class sizes based upon the special needs of the involved students. Some instructional areas may have further restraints based on supervisory, health, and safety matters.

Reporting

The Academic Dean shall provide a report on class size to the Academic Committee on an annual basis by November of each year.

Policy Adopted: February 23, 2010
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The Woodstock Academy
Woodstock, Connecticut