

CLASS SIZES AND STUDENT-EDUCATOR RATIOS

If a class, K-6, contains more than 25 students, an instructional assistant may be hired for that class based upon a review by the teacher and principal, and the recommendation of the Superintendent.

The Superintendent must approve all classes of 12 or fewer students and will submit said list to the Academic Affairs Committee to further communicate with the full Board.

Class size ratios help ensure effective instruction, individualized support, and student engagement. Smaller classes foster better educator-student interaction, improving academic achievement and social development. Maintaining balanced ratios enhances the opportunity for all students to access quality learning. The below class size limits promote optimal learning environments, reduce overcrowding, and support the District's educators in delivering tailored, high-quality instruction to diverse student populations.

For the purposes of this policy, "educator" is defined as a teacher or certified paraprofessional.

A. Student-Educator Ratios/Class Size Limits: To successfully carry out its educational programming and instructional needs, the School Board establishes the following student-educator limitations for each class:

1. Kindergarten - Grade 2: Maximum class size is limited to 25 students per educator. However, it is the policy of the School Board that class sizes for Kindergarten through grade 2 should, whenever possible, be limited to 20 students or less, per educator.
2. Grade 3 - Grade 6: Maximum class size is limited to 30 students per educator. However, it is the policy of the School Board that class sizes for grades 3 through 6 should, whenever possible, be limited to 25 students or less, per educator.
3. Middle School - High School: Maximum class size is limited to 30 students per educator. However, it is the policy of the School Board that middle and high school class sizes should, whenever possible, be limited to 25 students or less, per educator.

B. Exceptions: The Student-Educator ratios and class size limits above may be exceeded in the following circumstances:

1. Study halls,
2. Band classes,
3. Choir classes,
4. Large group instruction (including, but not limited to, lectures and showings of educational television and films), and
5. Laboratory classes (including science and CTE programs), the maximum class size shall be determined by the number of workstations available, alongside the size and design of the classroom.

Legal References:

RSA 21-N:8-d, 1(c) Recruitment of Educators in New Hampshire

N.H. Code of Admin. Rules, Sect. Ed 306.12 Provision of Staff and Staff Qualifications

N.H. Code of Admin. Rules, Sect. Ed 306.14 Class Size

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