

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

No. 202

**Board of Trustees
Douglas County School District**

PROGRAM

COMBINATION CLASSES **Grades Kindergarten - Six**

DEFINITION

A combination class is a self-contained classroom at the elementary school level, which includes students from more than one grade level. A major reason for combination classes is to address enrollment fluctuations and maintain efficient staffing levels.

STUDENT PLACEMENT AND CLASS SIZE

Placement in combination classes shall be based on holistic review of student needs, academic performance, and social-emotional maturity. Care should be taken to assure that all classes have positive student role models and a diverse range of learner profiles.

Combination class size should be consistent with or the size of other classes in the school and remain compliant with Nevada Revised Statutes regarding class-size reduction. Whenever possible, the number of students from each grade level should be approximately equal. Care should be taken to prevent students from repeating social studies and science units if they remain in a combination class for more than one year.

INSTRUCTION

Instructional delivery in combination classes shall be differentiated to meet the individual needs of all students and ensure mastery of grade-level standards for both groups. Teachers shall utilize a variety of grouping strategies to maximize learning efficiency.

Curriculum in subject areas such as science and social studies should be delivered through integrated or rotating thematic units whenever possible in order to avoid duplication of study and to maintain a "one-class" atmosphere. To assist the teacher with these units, the following practices are recommended:

- A. Total support and assistance from the building administrator in providing direction, materials and consistent scheduling practices.
- B. Cooperation and flexibility from support staff (music, library, etc.) in assisting combination classroom teachers.

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STAFFING

Care should be taken in the selection of teachers for combination classes. The Principal should prioritize the assignment of teachers who demonstrate strong classroom management skills, proficiency in differentiated instruction, and, when possible, experience teaching one of both of the involved grade levels.

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

It is imperative that school personnel communicate to parents the structure and benefits of a combination class. Parents of students selected for combination classes should be notified in advance of the placement, and an opportunity for conferencing should be provided.

The District recognizes that combination classes provide unique opportunities for peer-to-peer mentoring, social-emotional development, and individualize learning paths.

[See Policy 202 related to this Administrative Regulation](#)

Legal Reference:
NRS 388.700 – Class-Size Reduction

Adopted: 5/83
Revised: 3/89
Revised: 7/16/2026