

*Staffing the Educational Program (Class Size)**Definition*

“Upper Target” means the number which, if exceeded, would, in the absence of countervailing considerations, cause the District to increase the number of sections for a grade or course at a particular school.

Class sizes may be expected to vary depending on enrollments, instructional considerations, administrative constraints, and economic impact.

The Upper Target for each class size shall serve as a guideline in allocating staff prior to the start of the school year. Although exceptions below or above these ranges may occur due to specific circumstances, the administration will generally allot staff based on the following:

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Upper Target</u>
K – 1	23
2	24
3 - 4	26
5 - 12	28

Increasing the number of sections after the start of the school year shall only occur in unusual circumstances and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and building principal.

The nature of the instructional program and the organizational patterns of the District provide for various types of flexible grouping which are possible under the above Upper Target designations. Therefore, the size of the instructional groups will vary according to the need and purpose of specific learning activities.

Flexibility in group size is a major factor in the elementary and middle school team teaching organization. Assigning students to various sized groups (small groups of 5 or 10 students, average size groups of 25 students and large groups of 50 or more students) according to the purpose of the instruction and the needs of the students is essential to conducting meaningful instruction within the framework of the team program.

Regrouping of students by achievement level occasionally creates specific classes which may exceed the Upper Target designations. This may also occur as a result of team scheduling at the middle school or to provide for the inclusion of students with disabilities who are eligible for specially designed instruction in regular classes.

The administration will identify these classes and recommend support or staffing as may be needed to provide for the instructional needs of the students on a case-by-case basis so that the appropriate placement of students is not compromised.

In grades K-6, the Upper Target shall be used as a staffing guideline for language arts classes. In grades 7-12, the Upper Target shall be used as a staffing guideline for all core academic subjects. Variations above and below the Upper Target are permitted based on student academic needs, budgeted staffing allocations, facilities limitations, and the number of student course requests for specific courses.

This Policy does not apply to non-core academic subjects.

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