



CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ALBANY CLASS SIZE (K – 12)

Kindergarten through Grade 3

The Board of Education recognizes the critical importance of primary grade instruction in establishing positive attitudes on the part of all children toward school and learning. The Board of Education likewise recognizes that instruction in the primary grades is the most opportune time to prevent the development of learning difficulties and correspondingly, to minimize the experience of failure by children in later years. Therefore, the Board of Education will place a high priority on the maintenance of the most favorable class sizes obtainable in grades kindergarten through three in all elementary schools in the district. In kindergarten through grade 3, every effort should be made to avoid class sizes in excess of 25 students. As a general rule, kindergarten classes should be smaller than grades 1 through 3. Consequently, the Board of Education will expect building administrators and elementary supervisors to collaborate annually toward the development of class schedules for grades kindergarten through 3 that will accomplish this objective.

Grades 4 through 6

The Board of Education acknowledges the increased maturity of pupils in grades 4 through 6 and accordingly will accommodate class sizes in the intermediate grades that are somewhat larger than those in the primary grades. The Board of Education also recognizes the need for and the appropriateness of both small group and large group instruction under certain circumstances and for specific purposes and accords school principals and supervisors the flexibility to make such instructional arrangements. Every effort should be made to avoid regular class sizes in excess of 30 pupils.

Grades 7 through 12

At the secondary level, the Board of Education expects its administrators to make every effort to distribute class loads equitably among teachers throughout all academic departments in the school and throughout all grade levels. Variations in class size may be required to desirable due to the nature of the instruction in certain courses. To the extent possible, a teacher assigned to a larger than average size class should be assigned to a correspondingly smaller class so that equitable teaching loads can be maintained. The effect of class size on the various levels of students should also be taken into account. In general, class sizes among the higher instructional level may be greater than average, while class sizes among the lower instructional levels should be smaller than the average. In grades 7 – 12 every effort should be made to schedule classes not to exceed 32 students.

In an effort to obtain parity in overall teaching loads, full-time teachers whose total daily student load for five (non-laboratory) classes falls significantly below the norm may be used to instruct a sixth class on a daily basis provided the resultant student load does not exceed a daily average of 125 students.

By adopting this policy, it is not the intention of the Board of Education to limit curriculum offerings for the sole purpose of obtaining class load parity nor to limit the flexibility of individual schools or the district in designing programs that seek to optimize instructional outcomes for particular students or groups of students.