

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

No. 126

Section: 100 Programs

Title: Class Size

Adopted: April 27, 1981

Revised: November 19, 2020

126 CLASS SIZE

Purpose

The Board of Education (“Board”) is committed to creating and supporting optimal, equitable learning environments for School District of Philadelphia (“District”) students. The purpose of this policy is to implement class size limits in District schools.

Authority

The Pennsylvania Public School Code and implementing regulations provide the Board the authority to establish class size for all grades, including kindergarten. [1][2][3]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Board directs the Superintendent or their designee, through the Office of Schools, to develop administrative procedures to ensure that class size guidelines, including guidelines on when exceeding the established class sizes is permissible, remain consistent with this policy, applicable federal or state regulations, and contractual obligations.

Mandatory Regulatory Procedures

Maximum class size in kindergarten through grade 3 is thirty (30). In grades 4 through 12, the maximum class size shall be thirty-three (33). Maximum class size limits are subject to change for health and safety reasons; collective bargaining agreements; federal, state, or local law, regulation, or order; or for specific student population groups in accordance with the United States Department of Education requirements and the Individual Disabilities Education Act.

Maximum class size in Career and Technical Education classes shall be determined by the number of workstations available for student use, but shall not exceed twenty-four (24) students.

If the maximum class size is exceeded, the principal shall notify the teacher in writing of the reason for the larger class. The principal shall also notify the Superintendent or designee.

The District shall not exceed student to teacher caseload levels for Special Education students as determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. [1][2]

Legal References:

1. [22 Pa. Code § 14.144](#)
2. [22 Pa. Code § 14.105](#)
3. [24 P.S. § 5-510](#)

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