

Board Policy

Instruction

BP 6151(a)

CLASS SIZE

The Governing Board recognizes that smaller classes may contribute to student learning by allowing teachers to better identify and respond to individual student needs. In accordance with negotiated employee agreements and state law, the Board shall establish class size limits appropriate for each grade level or subject taught and conducive to the effective use of teaching staff.

(cf. 4141/4241 - Collective Bargaining Agreement)

The highest priority for maintaining small class sizes shall be in the primary grades in order to support young students as they acquire the basic skills that serve as the foundation for subsequent learning. Other priorities shall be established in accordance with the goals and strategies identified in the district's local control and accountability plan (LCAP).

(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

For grades K-3, the district shall annually make progress toward maintaining an average class of not more than 24 students, unless an alternative annual average class size for each school site is collectively bargained. (Education Code 42238.02; 5 CCR 15498-15498.3)

Transitional kindergarten classes established pursuant to Education Code 48000 shall be included in the calculation of average class enrollment for kindergarten.

(cf. 6170.1 - Transitional Kindergarten)

At the secondary level, district priorities for class size reduction shall focus on English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and other courses that are necessary for completion of graduation requirements and shall be aligned with student needs as identified in the district's LCAP.

For students who require special education and related services, the ratio of instructional adults to students in group services shall be dependent on the needs of the students. However, for children ages 3-5 years who are placed in group services, the teacher-child ratio shall be less than 1:24 and the adult-child ratio shall be less than 1:8. For children ages 3-5 years who are identified as severely disabled, the ratio of instructional adults to children shall not exceed 1:5. (Education Code 8264.8, 56441.5)

(cf. 4112.23 - Special Education Staff)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(cf. 6146.1 - Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board with an analysis of staffing and school facilities needs and other costs related to class size reduction proposals.

(cf. 3100 - Budget)

CLASS SIZE (continued)

(cf. 6117 - Year-Round Schedules)
(cf. 7111 - Evaluating Existing Buildings)

The Superintendent or designee shall annually report to the Board regarding the impact of the class size reduction program on student achievement and other outcomes such as changes in school climate and student engagement.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)
(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

17042 Rules for determining area of adequate school construction; exceptions
17042.7 Formula for calculation
33050 Nonwaivable provisions
35160 Authority of the board
42238.02 Local control funding formula, including adjustment for class size reduction
42280 Necessary small schools
46205 Computation for early-late programs
51225.3 Graduation requirements
52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan
GOVERNMENT CODE
3543.2 Scope of representation

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>
California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

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EXISTING POLICY TO BE REPLACED

[South Pasadena USD](#) | BP 6151 Instruction

Class Size

Cautionary Notice: As added and amended by SBX3 4 (Ch. 12, Third Extraordinary Session, Statutes of 2009) and ABX4 2 (Ch. 2, Fourth Extraordinary Session, Statutes of 2009), Education Code 42605 grants districts flexibility in "Tier 3" categorical programs. The South Pasadena Unified School District has accepted this flexibility and thus is deemed in compliance with the statutory or regulatory program and funding requirements for these programs for the 2008-09 through 2012-13 fiscal years. As a result, the district may temporarily suspend certain provisions of the following policy or regulation that reflect these requirements. For further information, please contact the Superintendent or designee.

The Governing Board recognizes that the number of students in a class may affect the extent to which teachers can identify and respond to individual student needs.

In accordance with negotiated employee agreements and state law, and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent or designee, the Board shall establish upper and lower class size limits appropriate for the subject or grade level taught and conducive to the effective use of teaching staff.

(cf. [4141](#)/4241 - Collective Bargaining Agreement)

In establishing class size reduction programs for designated grade levels and courses, the Superintendent or designee shall determine the potential impact of class size reduction on staffing and school facilities needs and shall recommend ways to address these needs without negatively affecting other grade levels and district programs.

(cf. [1431](#) - Waivers)

(cf. 6117 - Year-Round Schedules)

(cf. 7111 - Evaluating Existing Buildings)

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly prepare reports that will enable the Board to evaluate the impact of class size on the achievement of district educational goals.

(cf. [0100](#) - Philosophy)

(cf. [0200](#) - Goals for the School District)

(cf. [0500](#) - Accountability)

(cf. [6190](#) - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

Class Size Reduction in Grades K-3

The Board believes that small class size is beneficial to students in the elementary grades as they acquire the basic skills that serve as the foundation for their subsequent learning. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that classes in designated elementary grades are reduced to 20 or fewer students per teacher.

Full-time mainstreamed special education students shall be included in determining class size for purposes of the class size reduction program.

(cf. [6159](#) - Individualized Education Program)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the teachers of these classes receive training which will help them to maximize the educational advantages of class size reduction.

(cf. [4131](#) - Staff Development)

Class Size Reduction in Grades 9-12

The Board desires to provide an average class size of no more than 20 students in courses that count toward completion of graduation requirements in 9th grade English.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

[17042](#) Rules for determining area of adequate school construction; exceptions

[17042.7](#) Formula for calculation

[33050](#) Nonwaivable provisions

[35160](#) Authority of the board

[41375](#) Legislative intent encouraging reduction in class size

[41376](#) Minimum class size standards

[41378](#) Apportionments and allowances, kindergarten classes

[42280](#) Necessary small schools

[46205](#) Computation for early-late programs

[51225.3](#) Graduation requirements

[52120-52128](#) Class Size Reduction Program

[52080-52090](#) Morgan-Hart Class Size Reduction Act of 1989

GOVERNMENT CODE

[3543.2](#) Scope of representation

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

[15103](#) Definitions

[15130-15133](#) Class size reduction program K-3

[15140-15141](#) Class size reduction in two courses in grade 9

Management Resources:

CDE PROGRAM ADVISORIES

[1007.96](#) Class Size Reduction and the Relationship to Individuals with Disabilities

[0921.90](#) Implementing Class Size Reduction under the Morgan-Hart Class Size Reduction Act of 1989: CIL: 90/91-01

WEB SITES

CDE: [http:// www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov)

Policy SOUTH PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: December 15, 1998 South Pasadena, California