

CLASS SIZE

The Cape Elizabeth School Board recognizes that a relationship exists between class size and pupil achievement. This relationship varies across grade levels, among subjects, and by methods of instruction. Therefore, class size in grades K-6 and student loads in grades 7-12 shall be determined by several different variables, including grade level, subject, particular needs of the student, learning objectives, instructional methods, input of staff, budgetary constraints, and available space.

Class size/student loads that rise above acceptable levels put at risk both educational quality and the School Department's ability to attract and retain the best possible teachers for Cape Elizabeth's young people. The board seeks to balance this interest with the cost of the education of our students.

Keeping these variables in mind, the following recommendations shall serve as the general guide for class sizes K-12:

| <u>Grade</u> | <u>Recommended Size</u> |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| Kindergarten | 18 |
| 1-2 | 20 |
| 3-12 | 22 |

The Board recognizes that student load, not class is a more meaningful measure of the work for teachers grades 7-12. Therefore, school administrators of these grade levels will seek to maintain average full-time teacher loads of between 75 and 90 students.

Higher class sizes/student loads will occur for large group instruction in grades 1-12 for special classes, including physical education and instrumental and/or choral music.

If a class/student load exceeds the recommended size, the superintendent shall consult with the appropriate building administrator and review the situation before deciding whether to take such steps as hiring additional personnel or using other resources.

If a high school or middle school class enrollment falls below 10, the superintendent shall consult with the principal and decide whether to continue or eliminate the course.

The superintendent will inform the School Board of any decision in this area.

ADOPTED: June 16, 1987
 Revised: August 11, 1992
 June 1998
 May 11, 1999
 May 13, 2003
 September 13, 2005
 May 13, 2008