

Frequently Asked Questions: CLASS SIZE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Nov. 6, 2017

What is the issue?

By the letter of the law, K-3 class size caps apply to core classes as well as classes taught by program enhancement teachers (physical education, world languages, art, etc.). This might cause some districts to focus on strategies to move students and teachers so that classes taught by program enhancement teachers would comply with rules on a spreadsheet. Employing such tactics would thwart the objective of the legislation that set forth the requirement.

For example, one strategy could be requiring K-3 teachers to conduct their planning periods in a gym during PE class to list those teachers as co-instructing that PE class. This would corrupt the data output on the actual student-to-teacher ratio in that PE class in order to technically comply.

What is the purpose of the legislation?

The reporting requirements set forth in [S.L. 2017-9](#) (House Bill 13) intend to retrieve the best class size data as soon as possible to better inform policy discussions going forward.

What has the N.C. Superintendent done about the situation?

The State Superintendent recently provided clear instructions on how local boards and superintendents may apply for a new category of waivers for individual K-3 classes taught by program enhancement teachers as defined in N.C.G.S. 115C-301(f)(2)(a). State Board of Education policy on waiver approvals has been updated accordingly. This process will ensure DPI receives the most accurate class size data.

What is the timing of the class-size reporting?

LEA-level data in PowerSchool, our statewide student information system, was pulled as of Oct. 31. Next, DPI will incorporate October payroll data and have reports available for the LEAs to review in late November. Your superintendent's affidavit itself is due by Dec. 15.