



**FOREST LAKE AREA SCHOOLS  
FOREST LAKE, MN 55025**

**December 27, 2012**

**AGENDA ITEM: 12.9**

**TOPIC: Class Size Policy #601**

**BACKGROUND:** Staffing of the school system and class size is recognized as a matter of policy.

**PROCESS:** The School Board Policy Committee has reviewed this policy and they are presenting it to the School Board with the changes noted.

**RECOMMENDATION:** First reading of this policy.

CLASS SIZE

1. The matter of staffing of the school system and class size is recognized as a matter of policy. The School Board finds that it is impracticable and unwise to establish specific class size limitations because of the numerous variables involved which affect appropriate class size, including but not limited to, student performance levels, subject matter areas, emotional maturity of students, physical size of the teaching facility, degree of educational aides and clerical support available, type of instructional concepts being used and financial resources of the School District.
  
2. ~~As a guide in determining class size, the School Board shall use as a guide the recommendations of the Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning rules.~~
  - a. ~~Edu. Rules 3500.1400 refers to teacher pupil load and class size for elementary school students (K-6).~~
    - (1) ~~Subp. 2. Pupil teacher ratio. The acceptable maximum pupil-teacher ratio is 30 to 1 in any class in grades K to 6 or K to 8. A recommended pupil teacher ratio for music teachers including music specialists is an average of 240 pupils per day per week in grades K to 6 or K to 8.~~
    - (2) ~~Kindergarten. An acceptable maximum class size for instruction in any kindergarten session is 30 pupils.~~
      - a) ~~Recommendation: A desirable maximum class size for instruction in any kindergarten session is 24-25 pupils.~~
  - b. ~~Edu. Rules 3500.3700 refers to teacher pupil load and class size for secondary school students (7-12).~~
    - (1) ~~Subp. 4. Maximum number of pupils. The maximum number of pupils per day for a secondary school teacher is 160 except for teachers of performing music groups and physical education classes. An acceptable class size for instruction in physical education shall not exceed 40 pupils. The recommended average number of pupils per day per week for a secondary teacher of performing music groups is 180.~~
    - (2) ~~Directive: For the purpose of calculation the maximum 160 pupils per day load of a teacher, the number of pupils in study halls that may be assigned to the teacher is to be excluded.~~

3. Therefore, the School District shall, from time to time approve staffing patterns after review of recommendations by the administrative staff in conjunction with overall study by the professional staff.
4. ~~Independent School District No. 831 will attempt to adhere to the above Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning guidelines relating to pupil-teacher ratios.~~

~~The above guidelines may be exceeded in any one or more of the following circumstances:~~

Staffing recommendations and decisions will be based upon the following factors, as well as other relevant factors:

- (1) Classroom, facility and supply constraints;
- (2) Funding and financial considerations;
- (3) Curriculum and instructional considerations;
- (4) Availability of licensed staff and other staff considerations;
- (5) Student enrollment and demographics;
- (6) Location of students and transportation considerations.

~~Whenever the pupil-staff ratios exceed the above guidelines, the Superintendent of Schools shall make a written report to the School Board describing the circumstances which made exceptions to the guidelines necessary.~~

~~This policy will be adopted and filed with the State Board of Education by August 1 of each year. Any amendment made by the School Board will be filed with the State Board of Education within ten (10) days of its adoption.~~

REVISED: 2/20/90

READOPTED: 9/27/91  
7/21/92  
10/18/93  
8/15/94  
7/24/95  
7/15/96  
7/21/97

**AMENDMENT TO CLASS SIZE POLICY  
PUPIL-STAFF RATIO POLICY**

~~WHEREAS, Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning Rules 3500.1400 Elementary School Staff and 3500.3700 Secondary School Staff provide as follows:~~

~~Subp. 2. Pupil teacher ratio. The acceptable maximum pupil-teacher ratio is 30 to 1 in any class in grades K to 6 or K to 8. A recommended pupil teacher ratio for music teachers including music specialists is an average of 240 pupils per day per week in grades K to 6 or K to 8.~~

~~\*\*\*~~

~~Subp. 4. Maximum number of pupils. The maximum number of pupils per day for a secondary school teacher is 160 except for teachers of performing music groups and physical education classes. An acceptable class size for instruction in physical education shall not exceed 40 pupils. The recommended average number of pupils per day per week for a secondary teacher of performing music groups is 180.~~

~~THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:~~

~~Independent School District No. 831 will attempt to adhere to the above Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning guidelines relating to pupil-teacher ratios.~~

~~The above guidelines may be exceeded in any one or more of the following circumstances:~~

- ~~A. Classroom, facility and supply constraints;~~
- ~~B. Funding and financial considerations;~~
- ~~C. Curriculum and instructional considerations;~~
- ~~D. Availability of licensed staff and other staff considerations;~~
- ~~E. Student enrollment and demographics;~~
- ~~F. Location of students and transportation considerations.~~

~~Whenever the pupil staff ratios exceed the above guidelines, the Superintendent of Schools shall make a written report to the School Board describing the circumstances which make exceptions to the guidelines necessary.~~

~~This policy will be adopted and filed with the State Board of Education by August 1 of each year. Any amendment made by the School Board will be filed with the State Board of Education within ten (10) days of its adoption.~~