

**BOARD AGENDA ITEM**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting September 24, 2024**

Consider Approval of Class Size Waivers

**SUMMARY:**

This item requests approval to apply for a maximum class size exemption waiver from the Texas Education Agency as required by Texas Education Code (TEA) 25.112. These requests are based on enrollment as of September 19, 2024, for Prekindergarten through fourth grade for the following schools:

• Alexander (2)	• Adkins (6)	• Cross Oaks (2)
• Evers Park (4)	• Ginnings (2)	• Hodge (1)
• Martinez (3)	• McNair (1)	• Nelson (1)
• Shultz (5)	• Newton Rayzor (6)	• Paloma Creek (2)
• Pecan Creek (3)	• Providence (2)	• Sam Houston (2)
• Sandbrock Ranch (9)	• Savannah (1)	

**BOARD GOAL:**

In pursuit of excellence, the district will remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on campus.

**PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:**

No previous action for the 2024-2025 school year.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Maintaining a low student to staff ratio in all Prekindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms is a goal for 2024-2025. Staffing guidelines for the 2024-2025 school year are 22:1 in Prekindergarten– 2<sup>nd</sup> grade; 24:1 in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade; 25:1 in 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:**

In situations where enrollment warrants additional support, instructional aides and substitute teachers may be assigned to support student learning and teacher instruction. The shortage of certified teachers willing to teach in public schools continues to impede the district’s ability to fill FTEs.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Consideration(s) of additional FTEs and/or instructional aides are carefully weighed in collaboration with principal recommendations. Other fiscal implications to be considered are classroom space availability and program integrity (i.e., dual language, etc.). As the district maintains fiscal responsibility, while addressing limited state funding, we will continue to improve staffing guidelines with a goal of returning to the required 22:1 ratio for all PK – 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms. The fiscal impact for adding 24 additional teaching FTE to maintain the state mandated 22:1 ratio would be \$1,704,000.

**BENEFIT OF ACTION:**

Passage allows flexibility in consideration of student/staffing needs and space availability while striving to maintain 22:1 ratios at the early grades for the 2024–2025 school year. Flexibility also allows campus principals to assign students based on the individual needs of students and the strengths of their staff.

**PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:**

Texas Education Agency will process the formal request as approved by the Denton ISD board of trustees.

**PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:**

None

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Add additional teacher FTEs to alleviate the need for class size waivers.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION:**

The Superintendent recommends the Board approves the class size waiver requests to be submitted for consideration to the Texas Education Agency.

**STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:**

Jason Liewehr, Executive Director of Professional Personnel for Human Resources

**ATTACHMENT:**

Elementary Class Size Waiver Requests for 2024 – 2025

**APPROVAL:**

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: Jason Liewehr, Executive Director of Human Resources

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_