



Siloam Springs School District

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February 19, 2023

RE: Class Size Waiver

I am writing to request a waiver of Standard for Accreditation I-A-5 Class Size, which requires that "Each public school district shall comply with the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Division regarding class size and teaching load." Siloam Springs School District is seeking a waiver under Arkansas Code Ann. 6-15-202(b)(2)(A) and a waiver of rules regarding Class Size and Teaching Load 3.01.2.

The reasons for the request are as follows:

SSSD currently employs fourteen second grade teachers. We have recently enrolled several new second-grade students, which has filled all of our second grade classrooms with 25 students. We have students with individual educational plans who receive core instruction with a special education teacher and attend "specials" (Art, Music, STEAM, Library) with their second grade peers. A paraprofessional accompanies our students with disabilities to these classes. With the addition of the new students, putting all classes at their max capacity, our "specials" classes are over in numbers.

Additionally, if we have any new second grade students enroll, we will be over numbers in the general education classroom as well.

Hiring an additional teacher in late February or early March is not ideal for students; re-grouping students at this point in the year is not conducive to continuity in their education.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jody Wiggins".

Jody Wiggins, Superintendent
Siloam Springs Public Schools