

BOARD AGENDA ITEM
Board of Trustees Meeting September 27, 2021

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 20, 2021 for Prekindergarten through fourth grade for the following schools:

• Alexander (2)**	• Newton Rayzor (2)**	• Savannah (4)*
• Blanton (4)*	• Pecan Creek (4)**	• Shultz (3)**
• Borman (1)**	• Rivera (1)**	• WS Ryan (3)*
• Evers Park (3)**	• Sandbrock Ranch (3)*	

*Blanton, Savannah, Sandbrock Ranch, and WS Ryan: These campuses have been reallocated unfilled teaching units which, if filled, would eliminate the need for a waiver. The district supports the campus using a substitute, when available to assist high class numbers.

**These campuses have experienced rapid growth in the affected grade levels.

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 2022-2023 school year.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Maintaining a 22:1 student to staff ratio in all Prekindergarten through 4th grade classrooms is a priority for 2022-2023. Staffing guidelines for the 2022-2023 school year are 18:1 in Prekindergarten; 22:1 in Kindergarten – 2nd grade; 24:1 in 3rd and 4th grade; and, 25:1 in 5th 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 unlike in previous school years.

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 Prekindergarten – 4th grade classrooms. The fiscal impact for adding 9 additional teachers to maintain the state mandated 22:1 ratio would be \$585,000.

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 2022–2023 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 classrooms/portables and 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 2022 – 2023

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: Jason Liewehr

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____