

CLASS SIZE

The RSU No. 5 Board of Directors recognizes that there is a relationship between class size and pupil achievement and that this relationship varies greatly across grade levels, among subjects and by methods of instruction. Therefore, the recommended class size in the elementary and secondary schools shall be determined by several variables including grade level, subject area, nature of the pupils in the classroom, nature of the learning objectives, availability of classroom space, instructional methods and procedures used, skills, classroom space, strengths of the teachers and support staff, and budgetary constraints.

Keeping all of these variables in mind, the following student-teacher ratio targets shall serve as a general guide for the organization of classes in the elementary and middle schools.

Grade Level/Span	Target	Threshold Action Level
Pre-K	16 to 1 *	16 *
K-2	18 to 1	20 to 1
3-5	20 to 1	22 to 1
6-8	21 to 1	24 to 1

*Chapter 124 maximum class size for Pre-K is held at 16.

Higher class sizes will be allowed for the scheduling of large group instruction for special classes including: fine arts, physical education, instrumental and/or choral music and other special instructional arrangements.

Special Education teacher-student ratios are to be in compliance with Special Education caseload rules and State standards.

The Superintendent and the building principal shall strive to achieve the goal of a student to teacher ratio closest to the target ratio. When any actual student to teacher ratio exceeds or is expected to exceed the above Target ratio for its respective Grade Level/Span or any high school course falls below a 5 to 1 student to teacher ratio, the building principal shall consult with the Superintendent and consider options to resolve the issue.

Options may include, but are not limited to:

- Assigning additional staff; or
- Transferring some students to a different class; or
- Canceling the course; or
- Taking no action.

In no instance shall the Threshold Action Level ratio be exceeded without notification to the RSU No. 5 Board of Directors. When any actual student to teacher ratio meets or is expected to meet the above Threshold Action Level ratio for its respective Grade Level/Span, the

Superintendent, in consultation with the building principal, shall inform the RSU No. 5 Board of Directors and either:

- Assign additional staff,
- Transfer some students to a different class, or
- Take no action when deemed necessary.

Decisions on staff assignments shall always be to best meet the needs of the students with the understanding that Board approval will be required to hire any additional staff.

The Superintendent will update the Board on enrollment twice a year at a Board meeting; once in September and once during budget season.

Adopted: April 25, 2018