

CLASS SIZE

The goal of the Windham School Department is to provide class sizes that are well within the suggested maximum limits set by the State of Maine (25:1).

Research shows that a lower teacher/student ratio enhances the educational process, particularly in the lower elementary grades. Primary grade (K-2) students require more individual attention than students in the upper intermediate grades. 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 students in the classroom, nature of the learning objectives, availability of classroom space, instructional methods and procedures used and budgetary constraints.

Keeping all of these variables in mind, it is the intent of the Windham School Board to observe, whenever possible, the following class guidelines:

Grades K – 1	Maintain a student : teacher ratio of 18:1 or less
Grades 2 – 3	Maintain a student : teacher ratio of 20:1 or less
Grades 4 – 5	Maintain a student : teacher ratio of 24:1 or less
Grades 6 – 8	Maintain a student : teacher ratio of 25:1 or less
Grades 9 – 12	Maintain a student : teacher ratio of 25:1 or less

A higher ratio may be allowed for non-traditional scheduling or large group instruction. The recommended class size may be exceeded to meet the academic needs of individual students.

When any elementary or secondary school class fails to meet or exceeds the recommended class size range, the Principal shall notify the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent, in consultation with the Principal, shall consider options to resolve the issue. Options may include, but are not limited to:

- Maintaining class size;
- Assigning additional staff;
- Transferring some students to a different class; or
- Canceling the course

The Superintendent’s decision will be communicated to the School Board with the understanding that Board approval will be required to hire any additional staff.

Legal References: MRSA Title 20A: 4252

Adopted: September 9, 1992

Revised: December 15, 1999