

Adopted: 9/16/19

NRHEG Public Schools Policy 630
Orig. 2019

Revised: _____

630 CLASS SIZE

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is provide guidelines for determining class size enrollment including the number of sections offered per grade level and/or course.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. The NRHEG Public Schools supports class size limits in order to maximize quality learning experiences and meet student needs. The NRHEG Public Schools recognizes that optimal educational achievement will be served by the following considerations regarding class size:

1. Research and best practice regarding class size and correlation with student achievement
2. Teacher-to-student ratio and different grade levels
3. The ages of the students being assigned to the class
4. The degree of dependence or independence of students being assigned
5. The nature of the course or class content as well as activities to be conducted
6. The number of special needs students to be assigned
7. Additional staff support i.e. special education
8. The facility and its limitations
9. Available financial resources

The intent of the considerations above is to provide rationale for the establishment of the provisions below. It is important to note that the guidelines include baseline numbers as well as guideline “formula” to be applied when considering increasing a grade level by a section.

III. CLASS SIZE PROVISIONS

A. District Class Size Guidelines: It is the intent of the NRHEG Public Schools and administration to limit class size. Using these considerations, reasonable effort will be made to maintain optimal class sizes. The District will use the following guidelines when determining class sizes:

	<u>District Guidelines</u>		<u>District Guidelines</u>
Bridges	18	Grade 6 Average	28
Kindergarten Average	20	Grade 7 Average	28
Grade 1 Average	20	Grade 8 Average	28
Grade 2 Average	22	Grade 9 Average	30
Grade 3 Average	24	Grade 10 Average	30
Grade 4 Average	24	Grade 11 Average	30
Grade 5 Average	25	Grade 12 Average	30

B. Guidelines for Adding a Class or Course Section: It is recognized that class size may

increase beyond optimal guideline numbers. The guidelines for determining when to add a class or course section are as follows:

1. At the elementary level, a class will be added when a grade level class size average exceeds more than one-third ($1/3$) the “District Guideline,” as listed above, of the grade level class average.

Example: When to add a 4th section of Kindergarten . . .

- Current 3 sections X District Guideline Number of 20 = 60
- More than $1/3$ of 20 = 7
- $60 + 7 = 67$ -- when Kindergarten enrollment reaches 67, a section will be added.

2. At the middle school level, a class will be added when the ‘house’ enrollment in a grade level exceeds more than $1/2$ the size of a classroom.
3. At the high school level, classes are added as the student registration would warrant.

C. Class Size Limitations: Class size limitations as outlined in the bullets below shall apply to traditional classrooms. Student/teacher ratios in new innovative programs shall be approved by the Board prior to the implementation of the program.

1. Elementary School:

- a) Prekindergarten through grade 3 – Class size will not be less than 14 and not exceed 27
- b) Grades 4 & 5 – Class size will not be less than 18 and not exceed 30
- c) When any grade level exceeds the maximum number of students as identified above, a new teacher will be employed unless after the beginning of the fourth quarter.
- d) A recommendation by the Building Principal may be made to the Superintendent for single class sizes and/or grade level class size average outside of these guidelines based on exceptional student needs and/or instructional requirements.

2. Middle School:

- a) Grades 6 through 8 - Class size will not exceed 32
- b) When any class reaches thirty-three (33) students, the class will be “closed” to adding students OR a new section added, unless after the beginning of the second quarter for 1st semester courses and fourth quarter for 2nd semester or year-long courses.

3. High School:

- a) Grades 9 -12 - Class size will not be less than 12 and not exceed 32
- b) When any class reaches thirty-three (33) students, the class will be “closed” to adding students OR a new section added, unless after the beginning of the second quarter for 1st semester courses and fourth quarter for 2nd semester or year-long courses. When a study hall reaches forty (40) students, another staff member would be assigned unless after the beginning of the second quarter for 1st semester study hall and fourth quarter for 2nd semester study hall.
- c) A recommendation by the Building Principal may be made to the Superintendent for single class sizes outside of these guidelines based on the student needs beginning with students requesting the course, requirements of graduation and/or college program entrance requirements. He/She may also recommend

modifications to the class size based on the number of students requesting a course.

D. Other Provisions

1. Reasonable effort will be made to ensure supplemental and remedial classes will not exceed twenty (20) students in grades K - 12.
2. Lab sizes shall be guided by the number of student stations available.
3. Reasonable effort will be made to ensure that the number of students in physical education and music (non-band, orchestra, choir) classes in the middle and high schools does not exceed thirty-two (32).
4. Staffing guidelines for special education classroom models are administratively determined based upon the needs of students and the percentage of time students receive special education services.