



**Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools BOARD OF Education
Resolution Regarding K-3 Class Size
Reduction Implementation**

Whereas, pursuant to S.L. 2017-9, local school districts in 2018-19 are required to set class size averages in grades K-3 that equal the State classroom teacher funding ratios and will have to meet more restrictive individual class size maximums across those grade levels; and

Whereas, equalizing the average and funded K-3 class size ratios will result in an additional unfunded requirement by the NC General Assembly and result in loss of funding for teaching positions in critical program enhancement courses like art, music, physical education, world languages; and

Whereas, in Section 2.1 of S.L. 2017-197, the General Assembly declared its intent to create a new funding stream for program enhancement teachers starting in 2018-19; and

Whereas, even if this funding is provided, it remains inadequate to fund the classroom requirement set forth by this bill and classroom space and staffing challenges remain in implementing the new K-3 class size requirements which are outlined below; and

Whereas, an immediate reduction in the K-3 class size maximum will worsen what is already a very difficult environment, for Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools in finding licensed and qualified teachers to fill classrooms, most likely leading to more classrooms taught by long-term substitutes or lateral-entry teachers, who do not have the pedagogy and classroom management training necessary for this age group; and

Whereas, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools will require a significant increase in classroom space for the K-3 class size reductions and may be forced to create space by moving/eliminating Pre-K classrooms or not implementing plans to expand prekindergarten which would have a devastating effect on our community; our work to close the achievement gap and disproportionately affect working parents, communities of color and children from low-income families; and

Whereas, the immediate reduction in individual class size maximums in grades K-3 would increase the number of actual classrooms required at these grade levels, adding to already staggering backlog of school capital needs; Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools would require more than 40 additional classrooms and incur substantial additional costs building more classrooms; and

Whereas, numerous studies and research have shown the proven the educational benefits of art, music, physical education and world language classes, the class size reduction bill would all but eliminate the proper implementation of these classes by forcing teachers to travel from room to room with a cart to deliver key instruction in the lives of our children; but this doesn't work well with unique aspects of art and music education; and

Whereas, truly successful art, music, language and PE programs utilize teaching tools that require sufficient dedicated space to truly teach these subjects with media such as paint and clay and loud musical instruments that without this dedicated space, will travel to neighboring classrooms and disrupt learning in those classes; and

Whereas, Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools lack space to implement the class size reductions may need to also convert gymnasiums into traditional classrooms, which would mean that physical education courses are held outdoors with no alternative for days with adverse weather conditions.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools Board of Education respectfully requests the General Assembly slow implementation of the K-3 class size reductions outlined in S.L. 2017-9 through a multi-year phase-in that allows time for the legislature and school districts to address the challenges delineated above.

Adopted by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education on December 7, 2017