

Graham County Schools – LEA 380
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 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 the loss of flexibility to generate State funding for teaching positions in program enhancement courses like art, music, physical education; 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, there are still classroom and space challenges in implementing the new K-3 class size requirements which are outlined below; and

WHEREAS, Graham County Schools has one elementary school (Robbinsville Elementary) which at this time has no additional classroom space without having to displace Art, STEM education or one computer lab; and

WHEREAS Graham County Schools has no physical room within the building or funding to add modular classrooms, as Robbinsville Elementary School is located atop a hill and is landlocked for further building expansion; and

WHEREAS Graham County Schools values the instructional value of enhancement classes and appreciates their value for well-rounded and well-educated students; and


Whereas Graham County Schools has had current difficulty obtaining certified core teachers due to a teacher shortage and the rural locale of the area;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Graham County Board of Education hereby 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 Graham County Board of Education on December 5, 2017.



Rodney Nelson, Chairperson-Graham Co. Board of Education



Date