



## Kannapolis City 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 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 space and staffing challenges in implementing the new K-3 class size requirements; and

**Whereas**, an immediate reduction in the K-3 class size maximum will worsen what is already a very difficult environment for Kannapolis 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**, Kannapolis City Schools, in response to a need more space for the K-3 class size reductions, may create space by moving/eliminating Pre-K classrooms, cancelling contracts allowing space in Kannapolis City Schools to other providers for Pre-K, or not implementing plans to expand Pre-K; and

**Whereas**, the immediate reduction in individual class size maximums in grades K-3 may in turn increase the number of physical classrooms required at these grade levels, adding to already staggering backlogs of school capital possibly requiring the purchase of more modular classrooms or the substantial additional costs of building more classrooms; and

**Whereas**, Kannapolis City Schools, where space is lacking to implement the class size reductions, may be required to convert art and music rooms into traditional classrooms and have those teachers travel from room to room with a cart to deliver program enhancement classes in traditional classrooms; but this doesn't work well with unique aspects of art and music education; and

**Whereas**, art classes use messy supplies such as paint and clay while music classes generate loud sounds that, without adequate sound proof walls, will travel to neighboring classrooms and disrupt learning in those classes; and

**Whereas**, in schools that lack space to implement the class size reductions, Kannapolis City Schools 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 Kannapolis City 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 Kannapolis City Schools to address the challenges delineated above.**

Adopted by the Kannapolis City Board of Education on December 11, 2017

Mr. Todd Adams  
Chair

Kannapolis City Board of Education