

Nash-Rocky Mount Public 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 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 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 LEAs 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, LEAs that need more space for the K-3 class size reductions may create space by moving/eliminating Pre-K classrooms, cancelling contracts allowing space in the LEA to other providers for Pre-K, or not implementing plans to expand prekindergarten; and

Whereas, the immediate reduction in individual class size maximums in grades K-3 would in turn increase the number of physical classrooms required at these grade levels, adding to already staggering backlogs of school capital needs in many districts; NRMPS would have to purchase twenty more modular classrooms at a cost of \$164,220.00 while other LEAs would incur substantial additional costs building more classrooms; and

Whereas, districts that lack space to implement the class size reductions may 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

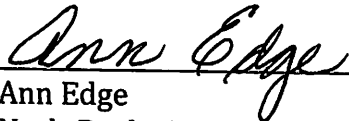
Whereas, districts that lack space to implement the class size reductions may need to also convert gymnasiums into traditional classrooms, which would mean that physical education courses are held outdoors with no alternative for days with adverse weather conditions.

Therefore, be it resolved that the NRMPS 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.



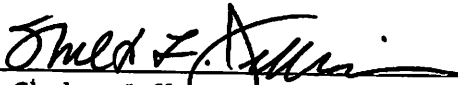
Wendy Wilson

Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools Board of Education Chair



Ann Edge

Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools Board of Education Vice-Chair



Dr. Shelton Jefferies

Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools Superintendent