

**Wilson County Board of Education  
Resolution Regarding K-3 Class Size Reduction Implementation**

**Whereas**, pursuant to S.L. 2017-9, in 2018-19 Wilson County Schools and other school districts 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 Wilson County 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**, the reduction would cause Wilson County Schools to have to look more closely at the allocation of enhancement teachers and support personnel throughout the district; 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 an already staggering list of capital needs in the district; and anticipate needing two modular units at \$85,000 a piece and/or renovations for additional classrooms; and

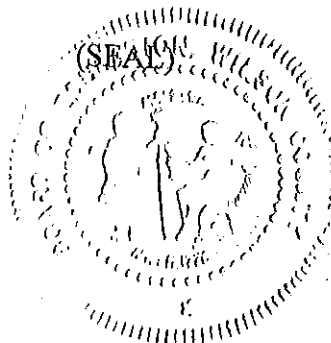
**Whereas**, Wilson County Schools may have to convert art and music rooms into traditional classrooms and have those teachers travel from room to room with a cart to deliver program enhancement classes in traditional classrooms, which doesn't work well with unique aspects of art and music education; and

**Therefore**, be it resolved that the Wilson County 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 Wilson County Schools on Dec. 11, 2017

*Christine L. Fitch*

Christine Fitch, Ed.D.  
Board Chair  
Wilson County Board of Education



*L. B. Mills*

Lane B. Mills, Ph.D.  
Superintendent  
Wilson County Schools