

CLASS SIZE

Class sizes should be educationally sound and support the School Board’s commitment to small classes and equitably meeting the needs of each student. The Board recognizes that new forms of school organizations, innovations, and physical classroom capacity will impact the number of students assigned to a class. Class sizes in the Alexandria City Public Schools, at a minimum, will comply with the [Virginia Standards of Quality](#) (SOQ).

The Superintendent may propose limits for the enrollment of each school in order to keep schools and individual classes at or under capacity to the extent possible, including situations where due to physical space limitations, class size caps will be altered. The Superintendent may propose class size caps in accordance with Regulation IHB-R, which will be reviewed and set annually by the School Board during the budget process. The Superintendent may establish caps for the size of individual schools.

Elementary school capacity is determined by many factors, including the standard elementary program, additional special programs, and the physical configuration of the school.

The number of homeroom sections for each elementary school at each grade level may be proposed by the Superintendent and set during the budget process each spring. The number of sections per grade level will reflect the School Board’s commitment to small classes.

Each year by April 1, the Superintendent publicly presents the projected number of elementary students by school by grade level for the following school year. The Superintendent establishes procedures to address the possibility of a school exceeding its enrollment limit.

After September 30 of any school year, anytime the number of students in a class exceeds the class size limit established by the Virginia Standards of Quality, the school division will notify the parent of each student in such class no later than 10 days after the date on which the class exceeded the SOQ size limit. The notification shall state the reason that the class size exceeds the SOQ size limit and describe the measures that the school division will take to reduce the class size to comply with this policy.

The Board monitors implementation of this policy through reports provided by the Superintendent.

Adopted: January 9, 1997

Amended: June 1, 2006

Amended: March 11, 2010

Amended: May 19, 2016

Amended: October 27, 2016

Revised: March 5, 2022

Legal Ref: [Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §22.1-253.13:2](#)

Cross Ref: IHB-R Regulations Pertaining to Class Size

JC/JCD Student Placement

JC-R/JCD-R Regulations Governing ACPS Student Placement Options