

**The Class Size Dilemma
(State Senate says "One Size Fits All!")**

Background

State law expects that elementary schools will teach the entire NC Standard Course of Study (SCOS) which includes: mathematics, language arts, science, social studies, physical education/health, music and visual art and develop positive character traits and behaviors.

Today, principals have fully deployed all of their state-funded teaching positions to teach all of the children in their buildings the NC SCOS. After careful analysis of the needs of their students, principals have organized and delivered instruction without having reached state-mandated (and arbitrary) maximum class size limits for grades K-3 which are

- K - 18 students
- 1 - 16 students
- 2 - 17 students
- 3 - 17 students

The current State Budget directs schools to organize/re-organize:

- within these class size limits
- within the current staff allotment, and
- teach the entire NC Standard Course of Study including
 - all tested academic courses plus
 - visual art and music
 - required daily physical education, and
 - required recess.
- Schools must also provide a duty-free planning period for each teacher, every day.

In order to free up state-funded positions to reorganize, each principal must:

- Lay off currently employed teachers who are certified as K-12 art, K-12 music, K-12 PE/Health but are not certified to teach grades K-3. These layoffs will include some intervention teachers and instructional coaches as well as many teachers on continuing contracts.
- Recruit and hire a significant number of new elementary teachers and get them up to speed on NC curriculum and Wake County's instructional practices and expectations.
- Create additional classroom spaces (with no money) for the new groups of students.

Talking Points:

Call your State Senator and/or their legislative liaison

Be respectful and get a commitment to vote for the bill.

Examples of impact: (Personalized to our school's size)

At Adams, 6-8 current teachers will be laid off in order to hire 6-8 new classroom teachers. And we don't know where their classrooms will be or what they will look like. Will they be in a closet or in the end of a hallway?

Insert your personal story about the impact of a specialist on your student and/or their school experience.

Across Wake County as many as 400 current dedicated employees will be laid off. Schools will need to hire 400 new classroom teachers and find space for 400 new classes to meet, all by July of this year.

Possible Legislator response:

"This is nothing new. Superintendents have been misusing state funds. We're finally demanding they use the funds for what they were intended."

Our position:

State positions haven't been mismanaged, they've been cut!

Questions you can ask:

- When did the required curriculum get reduced to only state-tested (academic) subjects? When were art, music and PE/Health taken out?
- How will teachers get the required duty-free planning period each day? Or their duty-free lunch?
- How will students get the required PE/health instruction and daily recess?
- Where will we find an additional 400 qualified classroom teachers? Across the state, this could be as many as 4,000 additional teachers to hire between now and when school starts.
- Who is in a better position to determine how best to organize a school for success, the principal or the NC Senate?
- Reducing class size will increase capital costs for decades to come. In Wake, 400 new classrooms is an unfunded mandate of more than \$300 million dollars.

Request Senators to Act:

Please bring HB13 to the floor immediately and pass it! Waiting is not an option. To wait is to unfairly mess with the lives and livelihoods of many dedicated North Carolina teachers. Do the right thing, pass HB13.

Will you do that? When? Can I count on you?