

Wake County PTA Advocacy Alert

K-3 Class Size Mandate

In the Spring of 2017, the North Carolina Legislature passed an **unfunded** class size mandate. Starting in 2018-2019, class sizes may not exceed the following number of students:

Kindergarten: 18

1st Grade: 16

2nd Grade: 17

3rd Grade: 17



POSSIBLE IMPACTS OF K-3 CLASS SIZE MANDATE ON WCPSS

** MUST CREATE SPACE FOR THE EQUIVALENT OF **9500 STUDENTS**

** **400 EXTRA CLASSROOMS NEEDED** TO ACCOMMODATE STUDENTS
(EQUIVALENT TO 14 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS)

** 27 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS **CAN NOT ACCOMMODATE** THE
MANDATE REQUIREMENTS



** EACH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MUST RECONFIGURE 4-5 SPACES TO CREATE **EXTRA CLASSROOMS** (K-1 CLASSROOMS MUST BE ON 1ST FLOOR OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS)



** 25 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WILL NOT ACCEPT MORE
TRANSFER STUDENTS AND OTHER **REASSIGNMENT MAY
OCCUR** THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT



** **SPECIALS** SUCH AS ART AND MUSIC MAY BE MOVED OUT
OF CLASSROOM SPACES TO ACCOMMODATE K-3 CLASSROOMS (IE, "ART ON A CART")

** **SPECIALS** MAY BE TAUGHT BY K-3 TEACHERS, NOT SPECIALIST TEACHERS, ELIMINATING VALUABLE PLANNING TIME AND BREAKS FOR TEACHERS & ELIMINATING JOBS FOR NEED TEACHERS

** MANDATE AFFECTS **MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS** ALSO! GRADES 4-12 CLASS SIZES MAY GROW AND SCHOOLS COULD FEEL OTHER EFFECTS AS FUNDS ARE SHIFTED TO PAY FOR ADDITIONAL K-3 TEACHERS

Well intended legislation could actually have unintended consequences, having the opposite effect of diminishing the educational experience for students and teachers.

What can you do as a parent and/or PTA member to advocate for schools, students and teachers?

**** Contact your representatives in the North Carolina Legislature (House and Senate)**



1.) To find your representatives: <http://www.ncleg.net/representation/WhoRepresentsMe.aspx>

2.) Call, write, email or visit your representatives

3.) Share with them how the K-3 unfunded mandate will affect you, your family and your school (personal stories are impactful and important!)

4.) Urge them to help solve this “class size crisis” for WCPSS and schools across North Carolina; at a minimum, our legislators must provide waiver mechanisms for the many districts that simply cannot reconcile K-3 class size restrictions with offering a robust, well-rounded education for all children

5.) Urge your representatives to solve this “class size crisis” before they return for the short legislative session on May 16, the day **after** school boards are required under state law to approve their budget request to their county commissioners.



**** Write letters to the editor to your local newspaper to**



make others aware of this issue

**** Use social media to contact your representatives and to educate others in your network about this issue**

**** Pass a resolution or position statement as a PTA unit or as a PTA Executive Board supporting your position on “class size chaos”**

**** Stay informed and inform others; join others to advocate!**



**** Join your school’s PTA. We need your membership for our collective voice to be LOUD and STRONG!**

Prepared by Wake County PTA Council www.wakepta.org