

Action Alert

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

Well-intended legislation will have the unintended consequence of diminishing the experience of students and teachers. **When implemented, this legislation will hurt public schools.**

Possible Impacts on Wake County Public Schools

In order to create space for the equivalent of 9,500 students, **400 extra classrooms will be needed** (equivalent to 14 elementary schools):

- ▶ 27 elementary schools cannot accommodate the mandate requirements.
- ▶ Each elementary school must reconfigure 4 to 5 spaces to create extra classrooms (K-1 classrooms must be on the 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 additional K-3 classrooms (i.e., "ART ON A CART").
- ▶ Specials may be taught by K-3 teachers-- not specialist teachers-- eliminating those valued positions.
- ▶ If we lose our specialist teachers this would also result in losing valuable planning time and breaks for classroom teachers.
- ▶ **Mandate affects MIDDLE and HIGH SCHOOLS also!** Grades 4-12 class sizes may grow as funds are shifted to pay for additional K-3 teachers.

Source: Wake County PTA

What Can You Do?

- Call, email, and use social media to contact elected officials. *Sample letter and contact info provided on the reverse side of this flyer.*
- Have your kids write a letter and send with holiday greeting from your family.
- Talk to friends, family, and colleagues across NC and ask them to take action TODAY.
- Sign PSFNC's petition which will reach the entire General Assembly. Find it here: www.publicschoolsfirstnc.org/current-petitions/ or see Combs PTA Facebook page.
- Write a "letter to the editor" or blog about the class size mandate.

Save These Dates

Event details will be posted on Combs PTA Facebook Page. Call Tappan Vickery with questions: 256-289-3248

Dec. 7
7:00 pm:

Informational Webinar from the NCPTA and PSFNC

Jan. 9
Tweet Storm

Tweet at elected officials all day asking them to take action in the Jan 10 session; **#Class-SizeChaos**

Jan. 10
Advocacy Day at General Assembly

Take time off and come and be heard from 9 to 1.

Taking action on this issue isn't about politics. It is about letting local educators make the best choices for ALL North Carolina children, teachers, and schools. Please SPEAK UP today.

(over)

Contact your state elected officials
and the Wake Delegation today:

Sample Message

Dear ----:

(Personal statement, including name, address, and other personal info.)

The unfunded K-3rd grade class size mandate for the 2018-19 school year is putting an impossible mandate on our schools. Preparations have already led to overcrowded classrooms, capped schools, specials on a cart, and loss of teachers. We are greatly concerned about the future of our special enrichment programs.

Wake County has one of the best school systems in North Carolina, and our school is internationally recognized for its success. The mandate will degrade our school and school system.

We need your leadership to protect the quality of education! Please restore HB13 to the original bill. Or at minimum, allow a hardship waiver process to let school districts, based on demonstrated need in the waiver application, have sensible time to implement the new class sizes, sizes, specifically to hire more qualified teachers, and find or build adequate classroom space. In order for our children to all receive an equal education and distribution of resources, we look for you to restore caps on grades 4 and 5. Finally, the state must fund education so that local districts can have full funding for specials teachers. We know that their work is critical to the academic success of all students.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Wake County Delegation

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Senate Committee on Education

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Find your representative here:

www.ncleg.net/representation/WhoRepresentsMe.aspx