

Managing Class Size

Monroe School District values the input of our families and recently, families have engaged with the School Board regarding class size. These have been important discussions about our policies and practices in regard to the on-going challenges of managing class sizes, particularly in grades K-8.

March is Open Enrollment month in the State of Oregon. The Monroe School District will limit open enrollment based on class size targets and space available in our schools.

This change of practice will provide district leadership with valuable information that will expand class configuration options more than ever before. By the end of the first week in April the data gathering process will close. Administration will then be able to determine the feasibility of changing and/or restructuring class configurations.

We do not anticipate that these changes themselves will solve all the complexities inherent in managing class sizes. Therefore, we will combine changes with additional strategies each spring, and at the start of each year. Those strategies will include adding or reallocating staff, blending classrooms and any other reorganizing deemed necessary. We are confident that these tools will result in consistently lowering class sizes.

Elementary Class Size Targets:

Kindergarten	25
Grades 1-3	25
Grades 4-5	27
Grades 6-8	27

Note: Class size targets are set to emphasize the importance of maintaining teacher-student ratios at a range that supports district established student learning goals. When a grade level average exceeds the target, the Principal and staff will work collaboratively, with the Superintendent, towards an amenable solution. The Superintendent, with Board approval, will then make the final staffing decision. This will include, but is not limited to, adding full-time or part-time teachers, classroom aides, and/or maintaining the status quo.

Note: Any increase in staffing will be considered based on estimated funding allocations from the State. Additional positions need to be financially self-sustaining.

Elementary Class Size Management Decisions Timeline:

March through May

- Continue work with teacher and classified professional associations on the importance of prioritizing class size in this year’s budgeting and negotiation meetings.

- Annually in March, the district will formally solicit in-district, and out-of-district, intent to transfer data and/or enrollment information from parents.

March 30th - April 10th

- Review student intent-to-return data provided by parents, and open enrollment information; decide how many transfer requests can be approved, priority will be given to residents of Monroe School District.

May

- Annually, in May, if the upcoming year's predicted class sizes are above designated targets, the district will consider all options for class size reductions.

- May Board Meeting

Report to the School Board and the community on the District's progress in regard to lowering class size. This will be based on the information we have learned from the parent intent process, will detail decisions already made, and will describe the next steps of the process.

Report to the School Board on teacher placement, flexible staffing strategies, and the placement of classroom(s) for the upcoming year. Additional classes may be created to accommodate over-enrollment in a particular grade or location. Blended classrooms may be the most viable option.

August 1st - Sept 9th

- Call and verify student enrollments, verify actual class counts during the first week of school, and finalize teacher staffing placement.