

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 12, 2010

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Response to Board Request for Information

ORIGINATOR: T. Parker, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE
STAFF: Bruce Cline, Carolyn Baker

INFORMATION

BOARD REQUEST #256, NOVEMBER 24, 2009, PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING CLASS SIZES WITHIN THE DISTRICT THAT IDENTIFIES THE NUMBER OF CLASSES THAT ARE ABOVE ALBERTA COMMISSION ON LEARNING (ACOL) STANDARD, THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN THESE CLASSES AND A BREAKDOWN OF THE NUMBER OF CLASSES EXCEEDING ACOL STANDARDS BY 10 PER CENT, 20 PER CENT AND GREATER THAN 20 PER CENT. Alberta Education requires each school district to provide class size information based upon class composition on September 30.

The ACOL guidelines are:

- Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3 17 students
- Grades 4 to 6 23 students
- Grades 7 to 9 25 students
- Grades 10 to 12 27 students

Frame of Reference for Class Size Data Presented in this Report:

A class, for the purpose of class size data collection, is defined by Alberta Education as a grouping of students for which a certificated teacher provides 50 per cent or more of the instruction. For example: English language arts, math, music, health, and chemistry.

In the case of combined classes, such as Grade 3-4, all the students are counted as being a part of Division 2 despite the fact the Grade 3 students are in Division 1. This causes some inaccuracies in the calculation of averages for each division.

Programs such as Reading Recovery that provide additional support for students, may impact overall class size averages but these are not factored into calculations, as they do not meet the definition of a class.

Some classes are above the ACOL suggested average by design. For example, many junior and senior high schools have band classes that have a class size of 40 or more students. As a result of gender imbalances, a junior high school may have a boys Physical Education 8 class of 37 students and a girls Physical Education 8 class of 15 students.

Educational assistants while counted in the class size data, are not factored into class size calculations.

Most schools subsequent to September 30 and throughout the school year, in order to best serve their school population, make adjustments to their individual class sizes. This means that the data presented in this report is not completely representative of current class sizes in our district schools.

NOTE:

Each student may be registered in anywhere from one to as many as twelve classes depending on the grade level of the student, thus the totals shown in the report of classes do not reflect our student population in a direct relationship.

Average class size is calculated by dividing the number of students by the number of classes at each division.

Appendix I provides a summary of classes above guidelines.

TP:ja

APPENDIX I Summary of Classes Above Guidelines

SUMMARY OF CLASSES ABOVE GUIDELINES

	K - 3			4 - 6			7 - 9			10 - 12		
	# Classes	% Classes in District Age Group	# Students in Classes	# Classes	% Classes in District Age Group	# Students in Classes	# Classes	% Classes in District Age Group	# Students in Classes	# Classes	% Classes in District Age Group	# Students in Classes
Less than 10% Above Guideline	717	8.4%	12,906	1,078	15.1%	26,342	796	13.3%	21,086	364	10.7%	10,393
10% to 20% Above Guideline	1,787	21.0%	35,031	768	10.8%	20,255	1,450	24.2%	41,948	568	16.6%	17,635
Greater than 20% Above Guideline	3,864	45.4%	89,272	699	9.8%	20,526	755	12.6%	24,561	766	22.4%	27,029
Total Above Guideline	6,368	74.8%	137,209	2,545	35.7%	67,123	3,001	50.0%	87,595	1,698	49.7%	55,057
At or Below Guideline	2,145	25.2%	30,164	4,574	64.3%	82,228	2,997	50.0%	55,527	1,718	50.3%	35,053
District Total of All Classes	8,513	100.0%	167,373	7,119	100.0%	149,351	5,998	100.0%	143,122	3,416	100.0%	90,110
District Average 2009-10	19.7			21			23.9			26.4		
ACOL Guideline	17			23			25			27		

3