



SCHOOL DISTRICT 10 (ARROW LAKES) POLICY MANUAL

501 – Staffing, Class Size and Complexity in Class Composition (Former Policy 4010)

1.0 General

- 1.1 The Board of Education has a long history of considering and acknowledging the impact of class size, composition and complexity on teacher workload and student learning.
- 1.2 Maintaining lower than provincial average class sizes has been a Board of Education priority and practice and will remain so.
- 1.3 Though the previous Board Policy 4010 was abandoned in 2009, the Board continued to maintain lower than provincial class size ratios.
- 1.4 The intent of the current policy 501 is to voice the Board's values and beliefs regarding staffing, class size and composition going forward.

2.0 Non-Enrolling Teacher Ratios

- 2.1 The Board of Education shall staff district non-enrolling ratios in accordance with ratios provided in the March 3, 2017 Memorandum of Agreement (MoA).
- 2.2 Non-enrolling teacher ratios in the MoA include:
 - 1:702 – Teacher Librarian
 - 1:693 – Teacher Counsellor
 - 1:504 – Learning Assistance staffing
 - 1:342 – Special Education staffing
 - 1:74 – English Language Learning staffing
- 2.3 Additional non-enrolling teachers such as Aboriginal Education Success teachers may also be provided as needed.
- 2.4 The Board of Education may choose to exceed the ratios noted in the MoA and in 2.2 above.

3.0 K-3 Class Size

- 3.1 The provisions in the MoA for K-3 class sizes will be observed by the District.
- 3.2 Class size maximums of Kindergarten (20 students), and Grade 1-3 (22 students) as per the MoA, will be respected and maintained. For Grade 3 / 4 multi grade classes, the class size will not exceed 24 students, in accordance with the *School Act*.

- 3.3 Provision for multi-grade K/1 classes will also be provided. As per the MoA, K/1 class sizes are not required to be lower than 14 students.
 - 3.4 Provision for multi-age primary classes will be provided with the aim to be at, or lower than the MoA limits cited in article 3.2 above.
- 4.0 Grade 4-12 Class Size Planning
- 4.1 For Grades 4-12 the Board of Education shall maintain class size limits set by the *School Act* and if not achievable, remedy within the parameters of the MoA.
 - 4.2 Wherever possible, the Board of Education shall endeavour to maintain Grade 4-12 class sizes lower than provincial averages; ideally with district class size ratios between 15 and 20 FTE students per teacher.
 - 4.3 The Board of Education recognizes the particular challenges of small rural secondary schools to maintain options and diverse pathways for students, as well as strong academic foundations, and will consider the unique needs of staffing its secondary schools. This may result in some lower secondary class sizes to offer equitable course access.
 - 4.4 In keeping with the MoA, best efforts will be made to ensure that class sizes remain under the MoA and *School Act* maximum limits.
- 5.0 Composition of Classes
- 5.1 The Board recognizes that when organizing classrooms and timetables, multi-age classes and the diverse learning needs of students may impact student learning and teacher workload.
 - 5.2 The annual budget consultation process provides opportunity for teachers and staff to provide input on potential ways to address class composition and complexity.
 - 5.3 Recent successful past practice in the District to support composition and complexity will be maintained and may include one or more of the following supports:
 - 5.2.1 Co-teaching models such as Classroom Support teachers, providing in class support
 - 5.2.2 Collaboration and co-teaching with Learning Resource teachers, Aboriginal Education Success teachers, school Counsellors, and English
 - 5.2.3 Language Learning teachers providing in-class support
 - 5.2.4 Education Assistant support staff
 - 5.2.5 Support from Principals, Vice-Principals and the Director of Learning
 - 5.2.6 Support from School-based teams and external consultants