

4.40 CLASS SIZE

The Director has discretion to determine class sizes within the budget and subject to consultation with faculty up to a maximum of 22 students per class K-12 and 16 students per class Pre-K. The minimum class size will be determined by the objective that the revenue generated by each class will at least meet its direct and indirect costs.

NOTE: Admissions to TIS are determined as per Policy 5.10 Admission, Placement, and Graduation requirements.

Preschool

The class size of 12 -16 is a guideline. The Director is authorized to allow split a grade level into additional sections if the split can be resourced, staffed, scheduled, safely accommodated and that the Director is satisfied that teaching quality and learning outcomes are unlikely to deteriorate because of the grade level being greater than 16. The Director is authorized to split a grade level that has fewer than 16 students, subject to the cost recovery objective, if he/she is satisfied that teaching quality and learning outcomes are likely to improve significantly because of the grade level split.

Grades K to 12

The class size of 18-22 is a guideline. The Director is authorized to split a grade level if the split can be resourced, staffed, scheduled, safely accommodated and that the Director is satisfied that teaching quality and learning outcomes are unlikely to deteriorate because of the grade level being greater than 20. The Director is authorized to split a grade level that has fewer than 20 students, subject to the cost recovery objective, if he/she is satisfied that teaching quality and learning outcomes are likely to improve significantly because of the grade level split.

Decision protocol for splitting classes:

- What is best educationally for the students?
- Can we staff the split?
- Can we resource the split in terms of classroom resources and educational materials?
- Can we safely accommodate and schedule the split?
- Is it financially viable for the school?

4.41 ALLOCATION OF TEACHING ASSISTANTS IN ELEMENTARY

Teaching assistants are a vital component to the planning and preparation of effective classroom instruction. When functioning as an effective member of a classroom or grade level team, teaching assistant expertise is maximized. In order to allow teachers to plan instructional practices from year to year, a constant number of teaching assistants is optimal.

Proposed Allocation of TAs to Elementary - to start August 2011

- Pre-school to grade 2 be allocated a full-time teaching assistant per classroom. In the event that the enrolment number falls below 22 per grade for two sections, the administration reserves the right to remove a Teaching Assistant.
- Grades 3-5 be allocated one half-time teaching assistant per classroom.

Rationale

Early elementary requires a high level of differentiation in language arts and mathematics. Teachers use a small group model for reading groups and checking for conceptual understanding in mathematics. There is a strong need for a teaching assistant to work with small groups and assist with classroom management.

The current policy creates a high turnover rate among assistants. Moving from grade to grade reduces the level of teaching assistant stability.

Adopted by the Board, December 15, 2010