



Southwest Open School

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Class Size Policy

Adopted: 9/12/22

Revised

The Southwest Open School Board is aware that class size has bearing upon effective teaching and safety. It therefore charges the Director to establish a reasonable and equitable class enrollment for each teacher.

Purpose

The programming at SWOS is relatively unique and has developed over the years to focus on project based learning and outdoor education. Many classes at SWOS are designed with outdoor education components, or include some practice of going outdoors. Outdoor education includes character education components, the understanding of environmental stewardship, and other elements that extend beyond a traditional academic curriculum. The outdoor educational components at SWOS require risk management guidelines limiting the number of students per instructor/trip mentor to a 14:1 ratio for off campus trips. For this reason many classes have required class size limits that relate directly to risk management and safety.

Procedure

The Board understands that achieving this goal is dependent upon the financial resources of the school. In determining the size of various classes, the administration shall consider the following factors:

1. The class size that will help the teacher be most effective with the students in the class.
2. The teacher's experience and familiarity with the school's programs and policies.
3. Required preparation time and resources for the particular class.
4. The age, maturity, and needs of the student group.
5. Physical makeup of the classroom and its equipment to ensure the safety of the students and teacher. The Director shall periodically review the size of various classes and make a determination as to the appropriateness of such size.

General student to teacher ratios for class size will be:

- Lower House: 15:1
- Middle House: 20:1
- Upper House: 25:1

The Board understands that achieving this goal is dependent on the financial ability of the school to sustain such ratios.

Procedures

The procedures for establishing the above listed class size ratios are directly related to the SWOS enrollment policy. Please refer to the enrollment policy for specific procedures.