2312 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASS SIZE & ASSIGNMENT

Class Size:

The School Board believes that the most important school-based factor contributing to a student's educational performance in elementary school is the quality of the teacher, rather than the number of students in the classroom. The District curriculum and related instructional program are dedicated to differentiated teaching with a strong emphasis on diagnosing the learning needs and achievement of each student. The School Board also recognizes that, when classes are over-crowded, even excellent teachers will be hampered in their ability to meet the educational needs of each of their students.

The Superintendent shall recommend for Board approval the number of class sections for each elementary school grade level. In making his or her recommendation, the Superintendent shall take into consideration the following factors: (1) student needs, (2) curriculum requirements, (3) educational research (4) historic elementary school class sizes in the District, (5) elementary school class sizes in comparable DFG districts within the State, and (6) district finances. The maximum class size in grades kindergarten through grade three shall be 25 students, and the maximum class size in grades four and five shall be 27 students. The Superintendant, taking into account the above-described factors, may recommend adding additional sections regardless of whether the maximum class size has been reached or exceeded.

Pupil Assignment:

The School Board shall establish school geographic assignment areas for pupil assignment to the three elementary schools in the District. The Superintendent shall have the authority to assign individual students outside their regular geographic assignment areas for any education-based reason. Voluntary requests for transfer shall be considered on an individual basis, and such requests will normally be granted if the transfer helps to balance class size.

Joint Kindergarten/First Grade Registration:

All parents/guardians of a child who will be five years old on or before October 1 of the upcoming school year shall register their child with the school district by April 1st (or such other date as shall be determined and advertised by the Superintendent). A five-year old should be registered with the School District even if the parent/guardian does not intend to enroll the student in the Haddonfield Public School system until after completing private kindergarten. Thus, registration will be conducted jointly for five-year-olds entering kindergarten during the upcoming school year as well as for five-year-olds entering first grade the following school year.

All five-year olds who intend to attend Haddonfield Public Schoo1s in either kindergarten or first grade the following school year, and who register for school on or before the April 1st registration date

for five-year olds shall, absent extenuating circumstances, be given priority assignment to the elementary school in their geographic assignment area.

If class size for kindergarten is greater than 22 in one or two schools and smaller classes are available in another school, parents/guardians will be notified and given a formal opportunity to voluntarily transfer their child to a smaller class in another elementary school.

Assignment Outside the Regular Geographic Area:

Any student who registers or moves into the District for grades kindergarten through grade five ("new students"), and any student who registers after the April 1st registration date for five-year olds ("late registrants"), will not be given priority assignment to the elementary school in his or her geographic assignment area.

New students and late registrants shall be assigned to a school outside their regular geographic assignment area when class size exceeds the maximum class size of 25 for grades kindergarten through grade three and 27 for grades four and five, unless the Superintendent recommends adding additional sections. New students and late registrants may be assigned to a classroom outside their regular geographic assignment area when there is a class size difference of four or more pupils per classroom between the elementary schools.

BOE Approved: March 1, 2010