JULY 2023 WWW.SDEA.NET

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS! Secondary Class Size



LIMIT OF 36 STUDENTS AT ALL TIMES

The union contract limits secondary class size to no more than 36 students per class (excluding music and business classes). That means for not even one day can a class be over 36 students.

NEW PE CLASS SIZE LIMITS IN 2023

SDEA members won lower PE class size limits in 2023! Now PE classes can't be more than 50 students for more than 30 calendar days. But in no case can any class be more than 60 students, not even for one day. The only exception is for athletic periods, where a PE teacher is coaching a sport. Track your enrollment (not attendance) to enforce this class size limit!



TEACHER STAFFING ALLOCATIONS

In addition to complying with class size rules in the union contract, SDUSD also has to comply with union contract formulae for teacher staffing:

Middle Schools

(Total enrollment/28.73) + 2 =
Minimum # of teachers
allocated

High Schools

(Total enrollment/29.13) + 2 = Minimum # of teachers allocated

Remember, these formulae only apply to classroom teachers (not special education teachers, or other certificated staff).

ENFORCING OUR RIGHTS

Make sure your school is staffed to comply with both class size limits and the teacher allocation formula.

If your class size is over the limit, chances are you're not alone. Talk to others. If many are effected, a good next step is a union meeting. As a group, figure out the solution. Then as a group and with your union rep, have a Step 1 grievance meeting with the principal to explain how union rights are being violated, and the solution. If not resolved, move the grievance forward. Consider collective actions to show the principal that teachers are united.

Source: SDEA Contract. Section 13.3

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WHAT THE UNION CONTRACT SAYS

Since 2012, the union contract has limited class size for teachers at the secondary level to a hard cap of no more than 36 students per class (excluding classes in music, business, and P.E). SDEA has had to grieve this language since it came into effect, because the district has refused to follow the contract, resulting in monetary settlements for affected unit members.SDEA Assocviation Representatives (AR's) and members should be vigilant about any overages in class sizes at their sites.

CLASS SIZES FOR PE

New language negotiated in 2023 has given Physical Education teachers new protections for class sizes. The class size limit for PE teachers shall not exceed fifty (50) pupils for more than thirty (30) calendar days, but in no case shall any class exceed sixty (60) pupils for any number of days (this provision does not apply to athletic periods where one is coachign a sport). Track your enrollment (not attendance) to enforce this class size limit.

SECONDARY SITE TEACHER ALLOCATIONS

Secondary school sites are allocated teachers based on the following formulae. It is useful to ensure that your site has the right amount of teachers per the contract, so that class sizes remain manageable at your site. These formulae only apply to classroom teachers (not counselors, special education teachers, or other certificated staff assigned to your site). These formulae can be grieved.

Middle Schools: (Total enrollment/28.73) + 2 = Minimum # of teachers allocated to your site

High Schools: (Total enrollment/29.13) + 2 = Minimum# of teachers allocated to your site

ENFORCING CLASS SIZE PROTECTIONS

If your class size is over contractual limits, chances are you're not alone. Ask your AR to hold a union meeting and ask members to come prepared with their class size calculations. Once all union members are on the same page, the AR and one or more members should meet with the supervisor in a Step 1 informal grievance meeting to explain how union rights are being violated, and the solution members are seeking. If the problem isn't resolved, as you proceed with the grievance process, union members should consider organizing job actions to show the principal that they are united in calling for a class size solution.

Source: SDEA Contract, Section 13.3

