

BURLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT PROCEDURE

PROCEDURE CODE D6P: CLASS SIZE PROCEDURE

Summary

BSD's Class Size Policy directs the superintendent or their designee, in consultation with building principals, to develop District-wide class minimum, maximum, and optimum average class size guidelines that take into account the instructional needs of specific elementary grade intervals and required and elective courses at the secondary level.

Procedure

In alignment with Section 6.3 of the 2025-2028 [Agreement Between the Burlington Board of Commissioners and the Burlington Teachers of the BEA](#) (below), the superintendent shall use the following guidelines to inform decisions on staffing, programs, scheduling, and class sizes.

Guidelines for Class Sizes

Grades	Minimum (not listed in 6.3)	Optimum Average	Average number per classroom across the district	Maximum
K-1	15	22	23	27
2-3	15	22 & 23	24	29
4-5	16	24 & 25	26	32
6-12	18	25	26	32 ¹
9-12	18 (includes advanced course, APs, honors)	25	26	32 ²

The superintendent shall stay within the minimum and maximum guidelines. Exceptions to the above may be made in each case for physical education classes and special experimental classes limited to one term.

¹Exceptions may be made where larger class sizes are appropriate for the subject matter.

²Per contract language. Classes for ELL, special ed, high-risk student needs, or independent studies may have fewer students. If students drop after the first class, classes may not be cancelled if below the minimum.

Square Footage Per Student Minimums

Regardless of the above, the Vermont Agency of Education sets square footage per student minimums, below; these do not include adults:

- Kindergarten: 50ft² of available classroom size.
- Grades 1-12: 30ft² of available classroom size.

Clerical Information

BSD Version:	BSD B2 Procedure
Date Adopted:	April 30, 2026
Legal Reference(s):	VTAOE February 2026 Class Size Working Definitions 2025-2028 BEA Teachers Agreement :
Policy Reference:	CODE D6

Appendix

Section 6.3 of the BSD/BEA Teacher Master Agreement:

6.3 The number of students per classroom within the Burlington School System shall be as follows:

a) In kindergarten and grade one (1) the average number of students per classroom shall not exceed twenty-three (23), and the maximum number of students in a classroom shall not exceed twenty-seven (27). In grades two (2) and three (3), the average number of students per classroom shall not exceed twenty-four (24), and the maximum number of students in a classroom shall not exceed twenty-nine (29).

b) In grades four (4) through and including grade twelve (12) the average number of students per classroom shall not exceed twenty-six (26), and the number of students in a classroom shall not exceed thirty-two (32). Exceptions to the above may be made in each case for physical education classes and special experimental classes limited to one (1) term.

Teachers, other than Middle School Physical Education teachers, in grades 7-12 inclusive unless otherwise provided may be assigned up to one hundred fifty (150) students. Middle School Physical Education teachers may be assigned up to three hundred (300) students once a week, instead of one hundred fifty (150) students once a week. Language Arts teachers may be assigned at an average, taking into account all such teachers, of one hundred (100) students, with no language arts class exceeding twenty-five (25) students (students/FTE)

Language Arts teachers = (average of 100). The Board will make reasonable efforts to distribute language arts assignments in an equitable fashion. Such reasonable efforts will not be subject to the grievance procedures hereof except in the case of retaliation or reprisal. Teachers in areas where laboratories are an integral part of the curriculum may be assigned up to but not more than twenty-four (24) students per period. Teachers in areas where shops are an integral part of the curriculum may be assigned up to twenty (20) students per period.