Elementary Class Size Task Force

Purpose

The Raymore-Peculiar School District is a community of learners partnering to:

- maximize each student's achievement
- encourage lifelong learning, and
- develop productive citizens.

One of the many variables that impact our ability to achieve this mission is class size. The purpose of this task force is to investigate the impact class size has on student learning and develop processes that will be used by the school district when decisions need to be made concerning the addition or reduction of staff.

Task Force Members

Lisa Hatfield – Facilitator

Internal Stakeholders

Jay Harris
Kevin Daniel
Lovie Driskill
Al Voelker
Missy Mattingly
Stacy Orf
Cortney Reimnitz
Risa Bullard
Meredith LaSala
Karen Hurst

External Stakeholders

Kim York, BOE Member
Bethany Woodson, Shull parent
Chris Hime, Creekmoor parent
Joanna Clark, Raymore parent
Kelly Raby, Bridle Ridge parent
Kelly Benbow, Peculiar parent
Joyce Noah, Timber Creek & Eagle Glen parent

Goals

•Gather, investigate, and review research regarding class size and its impact on student learning.

•Gather data from area districts regarding current class sizes and their practices for staffing in response to changes in student enrollment.

•Develop recommendations and processes for staffing due to changes in student enrollment.

Conclusions…

* We believe that class size is only one factor that determines the level of achievement in a classroom. Class size is based upon the dynamics of the student population; therefore, class sizes may look very differently even within the same grade level at the same building.
* When assigning students to a classroom, a principal should consider teachers' strengths and the academic and behavioral characteristics of students.
* Class sizes in schools that have been designated to receive Title funds should be at the lower end of each range.
* The state of the district's budget will always have to be a consideration in class size decisions.
* Guidelines were established using the following guiding principles:
  * Curriculum initiatives must be considered
  * Achievement and demographic data should be considered
  * Kindergarten classes should stay lower due to extent of "training" that occurs as students enter school
  * We believe that it is important to intervene early in a child's education
  * Physical size/space of a school and its classrooms must be considered

Raymore-Peculiar Class Size Recommended Guidelines

K- 1st Grade	18 – 20 students
2nd Grade	20 – 24 students
3rd – 4th Grade	22 – 26 students
5th – 6th Grade	25 – 28 students

Documents utilized by the task force can be located at: http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/index.aspx?nid=73