

CLASS SIZE REPORT 2015–2016

Bedford Public Schools

Bedford, MA

October 27, 2015

Overview

- ▣ Context
- ▣ Class Size Parameters
- ▣ DESE's Average Class Size Correction
- ▣ 2015 Class Size

Context

School	October 1, 2011	October 1, 2012	October 1, 2013	October 1, 2014	October 1, 2015
Davis	513	492	543	567	587
Lane	501	537	533	540	534
JGMS	575	577	565	503	530
BHS	835	881	868	884	859
Total	2424	2487	2509	2494	2510

	PreK	K-2			3-5			6-8			9-12		
	ACT	NES 1	ACT	NES 2	NES 1	ACT	NES 2	NES 1	ACT	NES 2	NES 1	ACT	NES 2
2009-10	13	506	506		564	564		559	559		771	771	
2010-11	13	496	486		551	534		571	568		804	783	
2011-12	26	513	513		535	501		568	575		833	835	
2012-13	40	505	492		564	537		591	577		835	881	
2013-14	36	532	543		552	533		577	565		854	868	
2014-15	36	522	567		571	540		560	503		862	884	
2015-16	31	480	587	604	565	534	529	591	530	522	866	859	854
2016-17		466		595	591		567	578		516	871		849
2017-18		476		583	578		609	597		538	846		796
2018-19		483		548	532		648	592		525	893		803
2019-20		483		539	520		638	619		566	858		797
2020-21				537			625			605			782
2021-22				543			588			644			830
2022-23				541			580			634			860
2023-24				543			577			622			888
2024-24				540			585			587			953

Class Size Parameters

In Bedford, these have variously been expressed as:

K-2:	18	K-2:	18-21	K-2:	18, 20, 21
3-5:	22-23	3-5:	22-25	3-5:	22, 23, 24
6-8:	25	6-8:	25	6-8:	24 core/ 25 non-core
9-12:	18 CP/ 25 Honors	9-12:	18 CP/ 25 honors	9-12:	18 CP/ 25 honors

Recommendation

K:	18	(20 max)
1-2:	20	(22 max)
3-5:	22	(24 max)
6-8:	23	(25 max)
9-12:	18	(20 max) College Prep
	22	(25 max) Honors, High Honors, AP

Additionally, the middle and high school should strive to keep aggregate student numbers per teacher at a 100 limit.

Rationale

- ▣ Curriculum and Instruction
 - Standards-based education
 - Higher order thinking and-student centered instruction
 - Complex tasks and meaningful, timely feedback
- ▣ Inclusion and Population Complexity
- ▣ Guidelines and Maxes

			2nd Gra de`	3rd Gra de						
District	K	1st Grade			4th Grade	5th Grade	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	High School
Andover				25	25	25				
Belmont	18-22	19-23	19- 23	20- 24	20-24					
Boxford				16-21	act. try to limit 20					
Canton	16-20	18-20	18- 20	20- 24	20-24					
Acton and Boxborough	20 max	22max	22m ax	22m ax	24 max	24 max	24 max			
Concord	18-20	18-20	18- 20	18- 20	18-20	18-20	20-22	20-22	20-22	22-24
Carlisle	18 max	18 max	18 max	18- 21	18-21	18-21	21-25	21-25	21-25	
Sudbury	20	22	22	24	24	24				
Winchester	<22	<22	<22	<25	<25	<25	<125/tea	<125/tea	<125/tea	<125/tea
Lexington	1 to 18	1 to 20	1 to 22	1 to 24	1 to 24	1 to 24	20-22	20-22	20-22	
Middleton				18 - 20	18 - 20	18 -20				
Reading	18-22	18-22	18- 22	25	25	25				
Topsfield	18/19	18/19	18/1 9	18/1 9	(no policy but vigilant)					
Littleton	20	On average								
Watertown	16-18	19-22	19- 23	20- 26	16-26	13-24	Actuals across three schools			
Westford	22	22	22	22	22	22	25	25	25	25
Woburn	20-25	20-26	20- 26	20- 26	20-28	20-28	20-26	20-26	20-26	

Bedford's Actual Class Size Averages

- ▣ Bedford is fortunate to have excellent class size averages
 - Core value
 - Budget and community support: two years of corrections to significant overages at BHS (26, 27, 32) and Davis (kindergartens at 23)
 - Small grade bubble moving through the system 145 in 6th grade as compared to the previous year's 183
- ▣ However, DESE and Boston Magazine gave a skewed depiction of class size averages (14.8)

Three Factors

- ▣ Bedford has a higher number of small support classes in its high school than many, if not most, districts.

High School Students and Classes Reported in SIMS Data to DESE (2014)					
School	Bedford	Wayland	Norton	Ashland	Swampscott
Classes	562	389	334	453	369
Students	904	840	709	749	730
Classes as %	62%	46%	47%	60%	50%

Bedford Reports Fewer Elementary Grades

- Consequently, the high number of high school classes with lower class size than elementary classes, and the lower number of elementary grades given, disproportionately de-emphasizes the elementary classes with their higher class size numbers

	Average Number of Elementary Grades Given Per Student	Total Elementary Grades Given Excluding Pre-school
Ashland	7	27,801
Bedford	4	21,945
Norton	6.3	25,174
Swampscott	8.5	22,331
Wayland	5.1	26,242

Inordinately High Number of Overlays

- ▣ Bedford High School teachers frequently teach multiple academic levels of the same course during the same class period.
 - For example, a Psychology class combines honors (12 students) and high honors (13 students). The DESE instead counts these as two small classes.

- ▣ Bedford High School teachers voluntarily teach multiple courses in the same period/class in order to offer our students the wide range of curricular opportunities that we value.
 - For example: an art teacher simultaneously teaches Art IV major (4 students) , two sections of Art IV minor (8 students, 7 students), and Art Explorations (3 students) all in the same class period. The DESE counts these as four different small classes.

As Compared to Other Districts

Number of Classes with Overlays

	Ashland	Bedford	Norton	Swampscott	Wayland
Overlays	16-20	118	32	30	29
Total	453	562	334	369	389

Bedford calculated only the overlays, not the base class, whereas the others included all classes, so the disparity is even greater.

Methodology: Elementary Grades

BEDFORD						
Number of Elementary Grades Balanced						
DA RT	# of Clas ses	Ave /cl ass	Stud ents	grades		Gra des/ Stud ent
Dav is	73	21.2	538	1547.6	11405.6	2.9
Lan e	132	20	527	2640	10540	5.0
JG MS	445	14.4	559	6408	8049.6	11.5
BH S	562	13	904	7313	11752	8.1
Tot al	1212	14.8	2528	17908.6	41747.2	7.1
				Balanc ed Ave	16.5	

WAYLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS						
Number of Elementary Grades Balanced						
	# of Class es	Ave/cl ass	Stude nts	grades		Grade s/Stu dent
Clay pit	148	20.9	580	3093	12122	5.3
Hap Hol	111	21.5	440	2387	9460	5.4
loker	42	19.7	175	827	3448	4.7
Midd le	447	15.6	663	6973	10343	10.5
WHS	389	15.8	840	6146	13272	7.3
Total	1137	17.1	2698	19427	48644	7.2
				Balanc ed Ave	18.0	

Methodology: Course Overlays

BEDFORD						
Overlays Balanced						
W/O overla ys	# of Clas ses	Ave /cla ss	Stud ents	grades		Grade s/Stu dent
Davis	73	21.2	538	1547.6	11406	2.9
Lane	132	20.0	527	2640	10540	5.0
JGMS	442	14.5	559	6408	8104	11.5
BHS Corre cted						8.1
	444	16.3	904	7220	14700	
Total	1091	16.3	2528	17815.6	44750	7.1
				Balance d Ave	17.7	
Overl ay Diff		1.6				

WAYLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS						
Overlays Balanced						
	# of Class es	Ave/cl ass	Stude nts	grades		Grade s/Stu dent
Claypit	148	20.9	580	3093	12122	5.3
Happy Hollow	111	21.5	440	2387	9460	5.4
loker	42	19.7	175	827	3448	4.7
Middle	447	15.6	663	6973	10343	10.5
WHS	374	16.4	840	6146	13804	7.3
Total	1122	17.3	2698	19427	49177	7.2
				Balanc ed Ave	18.2	
Overla y Diff		0.2				

2015 Class Size

Davis School

DAVIS											TOT AL
Grade K	21	20	17	22	4	22	21	21	21	21	190
Grade 1	23	22	22	1	18	22	23	23	23	22	199
Grade 2	22	21	22	21	22	23	23	22	22		198
TOTAL											587

Lane School

LANE									
Grade 3	21	23	24	23	23	24	22	23	183
Grade 4	19	23	21	22	22	21	22	21	171
Grade 5	22	23	21	23	23	22	23	23	180
TOTAL									534

JGMS

- ▣ 9 classes over 25- one major
- ▣ Sixth grade is 30-40 students smaller than typical
- ▣ Smaller average class sizes
- ▣ Core subjects have advantageous class sizes
- ▣ Some specials at or exceeding class size guidelines

BHS

- ▣ At 859, BHS is 25 students fewer than last year
- ▣ Important improvement due to combination of FY16 enrollment-driven budget accommodations and approximately 20-25 fewer students than projected
 - Due in part to increased ninth grade private school enrollment
- ▣ This year, we have:
 - ▣ 5 Major Classes under 10
 - ▣ 0 Major Classes over 25
 - ▣ 11 College Prep level classes over 18
- ▣ As compared to 9 classes under 10 and 23 major courses over 25 in 2013-2014