

> State Board of Education Approves Class Size Changes

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> In 2000 the Georgia General Assembly adopted a plan to reduce class
> sizes in all grade levels within four years. This was an effort that
> recognized what GAE has advocated for many years, that lower class
sizes

> increase student achievement. Unfortunately, reaching the goal of the
> final phase of class size reductions has not happened and will not
> happen again this year. Due to severe cuts in education funding and
the

> necessity to comply with unfunded mandates in the so-called No Child
> Left Behind, there has been no effort to reduce class sizes in the
last

> three years.

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> This year Governor Perdue proposed and the legislature approved
another

> delay in reducing class sizes so that, at the earliest, the final
phase

> of class size reduction cannot occur until 2008-09. Therefore the
State

> Board of Education (BOE) had to adopt new rules for class size
> requirements in all grade level.

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> On July 14th the BOE approved changes to the class size rule for the
> 2006-07 and 2007-08 school year that include changes in high school
> science class sizes.

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> Last year GAE opposed an effort of the BOE to increase the size of
high

> school science classes from 28 to 30 students. This year the Board,
at

> the urging of Superintendent Kathy Cox, lowered the class size to 28
> again. They also established a rule that high school science classes
> cannot exceed the 28 student maximum through the use of system wide
> averages. This averaging, which GAE has opposed, allows school
systems

> to divide the number of students per grade level in each subject by
the

> number of teachers teaching those subjects at that grade level. The
> current rule on averaging allows the school system to go over the

> maximum class size by two students in each subject, but that will not
be

> allowed in high school science classes for 2005-2006.

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> Click here

> [http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/ documents/doe/legalservices/160-5-1-.08.pdf](http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/documents/doe/legalservices/160-5-1-.08.pdf)

> for a complete list of class size rules for each subject and each
grade
> level.
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> If you have any concerns that your school system is not meeting these
> class size requirements please let us know. Plus, if your school
system
> has implemented class sizes that are lower than those required we
would
> like to know that as well. Please send any information to
> <mailto:jocelyn.whitfield@gae.org> or <mailto:jody.grogan@gae.org>
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> If the link above does not work use the web address below for the
class
> size rules.
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> [http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/ documents/doe/legalservices/160-5-1-.08.pdf](http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/documents/doe/legalservices/160-5-1-.08.pdf)