

## **Elementary Class Size Enrollment Guidelines**

*(Developed by the BC Class Size Committee, 12/16/2008)*

Class Size is an important factor in maintaining a quality instructional program for the Bethlehem Central School District. This plan will serve as a guide for our decision-making as the administration plans for sectioning and class size caps. After the establishment of sections for each building in the district, the assignment of new students to a building will be at the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools using the guidelines of this plan to inform decision-making as to a student's placement.

1. The district will determine the number of sections for each building for grades K-5 for the subsequent year before May 1.
2. New students enrolling in the district after July 1 prior to the beginning of the school year will be assigned to the neighborhood school on a space available basis by the Superintendent.
3. If the total class size in a specific grade level at the neighborhood school of residence is at capacity, then the student entering after July 1 will be assigned to another BC elementary school for that school year, with transportation being provided by the District.
4. When a new student, enrolling after July 1, cannot attend the neighborhood school of residence due to class size guidelines, siblings of the student will also be permitted to attend the other BC elementary school, if desired by the parents.
5. Parents will have the option to return their child to the neighborhood elementary school of residence, or keep the child at the BC elementary school assigned during the previous year, if class size allows this to happen.
6. The overall goal of the Bethlehem Central School District is to maintain the concept of neighborhood schools, and to support the interests of families desiring to have their children participate in our educational program. Any exceptions to these guidelines will be at the discretion of the Board of Education.<sup>1</sup>
7. The class size caps for K-5 classes will be K=20-22, 1<sup>st</sup>=21-23, 2<sup>nd</sup>=22-24, 3<sup>rd</sup>=23-25, 4<sup>th</sup>=24-26, 5<sup>th</sup>=25-27.

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<sup>1</sup> Generally, the location of a child's residence within a school district determines the particular school a child will attend. However, school boards have broad discretion in assigning students to a particular school, including the authority to establish attendance zones and exceptions to attendance zone limitations ( 1709(3), (33); *Appeal of Knoer*, 47 Educ. Dept Rep. 102 (2007); *Appeal of P.C.*, 45 Educ. Dept Rep. 476, (2006); *Matter of Addabbo v. Donovan*, 22 A.D.2d 383, *affd*, 16 N.Y.2d 619, *cert. denied*, 382 U.S. 905 (1965); NYS Education Law.