

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

July 17, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Subject: School Schedule and Class Size Information (06-11-19-04-A-B)

During the *Resource Equity: Resource Study (Part II) and Class Size Committee Update*, Board members requested the following information:

Question A

Dr. Docca requested that staff provide Board members with a copy of the Wheaton Woods schedule so that the Board can see where teachers have time in their schedules for collaborative planning.

Response

Staff in the Office of School Support and Improvement consulted with Mr. David T. Chia, principal at Wheaton Woods Elementary School, to address this inquiry. According to Mr. Chia, homeroom teachers, core team, and teacher specialists attend and are full members of the team planning process that includes the following components: identifying focused mastery objectives for the planning interval; data/student work samples to collect/review/analyze/discuss; discussion of instructional practices or new/different approaches; and celebrating student success and each other.

The Wheaton Woods Elementary School master schedule for school year 2019–2020 is attached for your reference (Attachment A). This schedule is considered a draft. It may be adjusted in minor ways in September 2019.

Question B

Ms. Silvestre requested data regarding the class sizes of the math and English classes in the Honors and AP classes versus on-level courses. Mrs. Smondrowski requested that this information also include the adult-to-student ratios across all courses, and not just in Special Education.

Response

Staff in the Office of School Support and Improvement, the Office of Shared Accountability, and the School and Financial Operations Team compiled data regarding class sizes in math and English Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors sections compared to those in on-grade-level sections. Staffing of special education paraeducators is allocated by specific program. General education paraeducator staffing is allocated based on school needs and may be different at each school. Therefore, it is not possible to accurately report adult-to-student ratios across all courses.

The attached spreadsheet (Attachment B) contains a list of the AP courses at all schools for Semester 2 of school year 2018–2019. There are 1,978 classes (please note that this may include classes that are combined at the school level in the same period such as art and computer classes).

The enrollment guideline for class size in all AP courses (1,627 total), excluding AP English courses, is 32 students. The attached spreadsheet indicates that 88 classes had an enrollment of 33 students; 37 classes had an enrollment of 34 students; 5 classes had an enrollment of 35 students; and 2 classes had an enrollment of 36 students. Approximately 8 percent of AP classes for all AP courses, excluding AP English courses, had an enrollment that exceeds the guideline.

The guideline for class size in all AP English courses (341 total) is 29 students. The attached spreadsheet indicates that 29 classes had an enrollment of 30 students; 5 classes had an enrollment of 31 students; 2 classes had an enrollment of 32 students; and 1 class had an enrollment of 33 students. Approximately 10.9 percent of AP English classes had an enrollment that exceeds the guideline.

Class size information for select high school courses in both Honors and grade level format is provided in the following table.

Average Class Size for Honors and Grade Level Biology, English 10, Geometry, and National,
State and Local (NSL) Government Courses
(High School only, 2019-2020 First Semester School Year Enrollment)

	Course			
	Biology	English 10	Geometry	NSL
Honors Level	26.2	25.6	27.3	24.8
Grade Level	20.8	17.9	21.6	21.0

Note: Data are a snapshot of fall 2019 enrollment taken on July 10, 2019. Schools with combined honors/grade level classes are not included; Data are for first semester normal sequence courses (e.g. Biology A or Honors Biology A) only; Class size information includes classes designed for special population students.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Kimberly A. Statham, chief of school support and improvement, Office of School Support and Improvement, or Dr. Arronza M. LaBatt, executive director, Office of School Support and Improvement, at 240-740-3100.

Confidential Attachments

JRS:KAS:kde

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Executive Staff

Ms. Webb