

# Class Size Update: Fall 2017



# Class Size Timeline

- ▶ Lawmakers reduced K-3 class sizes that go into affect 2018-19
- ▶ HB13 was passed unanimously by the NC House early in 2017 but never passed the Senate
- ▶ Failed to fix in October special session
- ▶ Another fix for class size can be passed at any time by NCGA: special sessions

# K-3 Class Size: What's changing?

## Now: Consistent across K-3

- ▶ District average:  
21 students or less in K-3 classrooms
- ▶ Individual classrooms:  
no more than 24 students in a K-3 class

## New: Inconsistent across K-3

- ▶ Grade K: district avg 18 or less; single class no more than 21 students
- ▶ Grade 1: district avg 16 or less; single class no more than 19 students
- ▶ Grades 2-3: district avg 17 or less; single class no more than 20 students

# Why does this impact specialist teachers?

**Lawmakers wrongly accuse school systems of misusing funds! They claim LEAs have the money to meet mandate.**

- ▶ School systems have had flexibility in teacher funding for 30+ years
- ▶ Principals have used teacher allotment funds to hire K-5 teachers and specialist teachers
- ▶ Funding flexibility taken away
- ▶ No additional funds were provided to meet K-3 mandate; no additional funds to hire more K-3 teachers



Photo: N&O,  
HB13 Rally  
4/19/17

# Class Size Mandate: Other Impacts

- ▶ **Combining classrooms:** 2 whole classes with 2 teachers in one room
- ▶ **Classes in the library or an office space**
- ▶ **Art & Music on a cart**
- ▶ **4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders are paying the price!**  
No 4-12 class size limits
- ▶ **Middle & HS impacted** because of overall funding needs

# WCPSS impact:

- WCPSS needs >9K seats: equivalent of 14 new schools to comply
- 27 schools cannot meet mandate: no space, no room for trailers
- Some transfer students may be moved back to base



**WAKE COUNTY**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**

# SAVE THESE DATES!

**January 9<sup>th</sup>:** Tweet Storm

**January 10<sup>th</sup>:** They're back!  
Another special session

# Thank you! Stay in touch!



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