

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

TO: Brent Stephens, Ed. D., Superintendent
FROM: Rubén Aurelio, Associate Supt. of Educational Services
DATE: October 20, 2021
SUBJECT: School Class Size Report

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since 1987, Berkeley Schools Excellence Program (BSEP), a community response to state and federal education funding shortages, has financed lower class sizes at all Berkeley public schools. In 2016, BSEP Measure E1 reaffirmed the community's commitment to smaller class sizes by allocating additional funds to continue maintaining a lower student-to-teacher class size ratio. Currently, BSEP funds approximately 30% of classroom teachers in Berkeley schools.

The class size goal in K-4 is a school-wide average of 23:1. The prior BSEP Measure A of 2006 has a goal for fifth grade as a district-wide class size average of 26:1 and it remains in place until the ultimate goal of Measure E1, a balanced school-wide average of 23:1 to be achieved by the 2022-2023 school year, the sixth year of the Measure. The goal for secondary schools remains a district-wide class size average of 28:1.

2021-22 Class Size Reports

The class size goals in elementary schools have been met. For K-4, all school sites have averages below 23:1, and in fact school-wide class size averages are currently below 23:1 for K-5 as well. The district-wide class size goal of 26:1 for fifth was also met. The 2021-22 school year will be the last year of the year of BSEP Measure A of 2006. The 2022-23 school year will see the full implementation of Measure E1 in elementary schools. Measure E1 calls for a school-wide class size average of 23:1 for grades K-5.

The class size goals in middle school have been met, with an average class size of 24.8 in sixth grade. The district-wide class size average in 7th and 8th grade is 24.3 excluding PE.

High school class size averages are just above the 28:1 teacher to student ratio. The overall class size is 28.1 at Berkeley High School excluding PE. In order to reduce that class size, Berkeley high has been authorized to hire 0.9 FTE. The goal is to staff various core sections and therefore reduce the overall class size to the 28:1 ratio. The class size average for ninth grade including the LEAP academic support elective is 25.7. Berkeley Technology Academy class size average is 10.4 students per teacher, significantly less than the 18:1 average stipulated in the Measure.

POLICY/CODE

Berkeley Schools Excellence Project, Measure E1 of 2016

FISCAL IMPACT

None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Receive the School Class Size Report for information.