

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Enikia Ford Morthel, Superintendent
DATE: October 12, 2022
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 2022-23 is the first year of the full implementation of Measure E1. At the elementary level, the measure begun its gradual implementation six years ago with kindergarten students; those students are now in fifth grade. The class size goal in grades K-5 is a school-wide average of 23:1. For middle and high school students, the class size goal is 28:1

In 2022-23, the state TK class size is a 12:1 student to teacher ratio or 24 students per two adult educators. However, BUSD and BFT have a negotiated TK class size of 20 students per class with one credential teacher and one instructional aide. From the 2023-24 school year on, the state's TK class size will mirror BUSD's negotiated class size with BFT of 20 students per two adults (a teacher and an instructional aide). Beginning in the 2022-23 school year, the TK age requirements are to be lowered by two months each year until all 4-year olds are able to attend TK in 2025-26. As the TK age expands to accommodate younger students, BUSD's staff is in the process of identifying available classrooms to house the students.

2022-23 Class Size Reports

The class size goals in elementary schools have been met. For K-5, all school sites have class sizes averages below 23:1. The class size goals in middle school have also been met, with an average class size of 26.0 in sixth grade. The district-wide class size average in 7th and 8th grade is 23.9 including electives but excluding PE.

The Berkeley High School class size averages of 28:1 student to teacher ratio has been met. The overall class size is 27.5 at Berkeley High School excluding PE. The class size average for ninth grade including the LEAP academic support elective is 23.3. Berkeley

Technology Academy class size average is 9.6 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.