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| AREA: Administration |
| AGENDA ITEM(S): Request for Class-Size Waiver |
| CONTACT PERSON(S): Robert L. Logan, Superintendent |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATION |

Synopsis of Agenda Item

G.S. 115C-301 (c) mandates that the average class size for each grade span in a local school administrative unit shall at no time exceed the funded allotment ratio of teachers to students. At the end of the second school month and for the remainder of the school year, the size of an individual class shall not exceed the allotment ratio by more than three students.

Presently, Chatham County Schools grade span class-size ratios are:

- K-3 (19.6)
- 3-9 (22.2)
- 10-12 (17.0)

As a school district we are well within state class-size regulations, thus in isolated instances can exceed the LEA-wide ratio by three students as long as the LEA-wide average class-size maximums are not exceeded. At the end of the first 20 days we had class-size overages in one honors Algebra II class at Northwood and two 8th grade classes at Silk Hope (see waiver request). The class-size overage in honors Algebra II can not be corrected because there is only one section of Algebra II and no additional personnel available to create another section. Due to the certification of the 6-8 teachers at Silk Hope, the entire middle school schedule would have to be reworked in order to accommodate smaller classes at eighth grade and would likely prevent the school from being able to provide two 90 minute blocks for math and language arts at the 8th grade—a best practice that should continue. It is recommended that class-size waivers be requested from the State Board of Education.

Keep in mind, the State Board will not address class-size waivers until November. If the waivers are not approved, the classes which are still over will have to be balanced.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

Suggested Motion: I move that the Chatham County Board of Education approve the class-size waiver requests for submittal to the N C State Board of Education.