

APPENDIX B SCHOOL CAPACITY STANDARDS

Appendix Contents

Elementary Schools.....B-2

Scheduling Efficiency.....B-3

Middle School Capacity Calculation.....B-3

Definitions.....B-3

High School Capacity Calculation.....B-4

Elementary Schools

There are two methods used to calculate elementary school capacity. The first, the ratio method, takes average class size ratios and computes capacity on a total classroom basis. For the most recent buildings, this computation is as follows:

Classroom	Rooms	Sections	Average Class Size	Capacity
Kindergarten	2	4	25	100
Regular Classrooms	18	18	25	450
Capacity				550

For year-round schools, these classrooms can be used for three groups of students at one time, with a fourth group of students on vacation. The schedule then permits capacity to increase by 28 percent or to 700 students. Because of the half-day program, kindergarten capacity could be increased to 150 but the per-grade capacity is 100 for grades 1 through 6, thus limiting the overall scheduling efficiency.

The second calculation is based upon square footage standards per pupil. Once again, using the most recent elementary school design, the calculation of capacity is provided:

Classroom	No. Rooms	Size	Total	Sq.Ft. ¹	Capacity	Sections	Total
Kindergarten	2	1,000	2,000	50	40	2	80
Classrooms	18	800	14,400	30	480	18	480
Total							560
					*YRE		715

* YRE = Year-round education (multi-track) calendar which applies a factor of 1.28 times the conventional calendar capacity. This implies that average class sizes approximate 20 students for kindergarten and about 27 students for grades one through six.

Core Areas	Size	Std. ²	Teachers	Students	Capacity
Library	2,000	70	29	25	714
Gymnasium	3,500	175	20	25	500
Cafeteria	2,000	10/student		200 ³	600

¹ Educational Facilities, Basil Castaldi, 1994. Standard expressed as square footage per child.

² Standard expressed as square footage per teacher, except where noted.

³ Number of students multiplied by the number of lunch periods.

The conventional capacity is extended 28 percent by the implementation of a multi-track year-round schedule.

The School District recognizes that at certain times, because of inadequate capital funding, extremely rapid growth or both, more children will have to be assigned to an elementary school. In no case shall the LIMITED USE, EMERGENCY CAPACITY EXTENSION (LUECE) be used for more than a two-year period of time. In this case, capacity shall first be extended by the use of mobile classrooms, if funding is available for lease or purchase. As a last resort, class sizes may be adjusted to reach the

designated number. In no case, however, shall the number of students assigned to a building exceed this capacity number, unless approved by formal Board of Education resolution.

Scheduling Efficiency

Because of normal functional requirements, it is not always possible to utilize all classrooms or all seats every period of the day or for any purpose. For example, a kindergarten room that is used one-half day cannot be utilized for a third grade class which must meet all day. In a secondary school, a general classroom would not serve the educational function of a chemistry or biology class where specialized equipment is necessary. Even though 100 percent utilization is a desirable goal, it is impossible to reach in actual use. Demographic trends or student demand for courses does not permit every seat in every classroom to be filled every minute of the school day. Utilization ratios reflect the District's historic capability to house students in each type of facility.

Middle School Capacity Calculation

Middle school capacity calculations vary by use or function and are summarized as follows:

Department	Design Capacity	Extended Capacity (YRE)	Limited Use Emergency Capacity Extension
Art	44	44	50
Drama	72	72	90
General Classrooms	600	800	900
Computer	48	48	56
Science	168	224	224
Special Education	10	10	15
Life Management	44	44	52
Industrial Tech	44	44	52
Music	60	60	72
Physical Education	60	60	108
Health	50	50	60
Total	1,200	1,456	1,715
Scheduling Efficiency * = 85 percent			
Net Capacity	1,020	1,238	1,427

* Assumes each classroom can be scheduled six out of every seven periods.

Definitions

Maximum Capacity: Teaching Stations * Average Class Size

Extended Capacity: Applies a multi-track year-round calendar to general classrooms and science only in that these are the only areas that can track in and out to increase usable space.

Limited Use: The LIMITED USE, EMERGENCY CAPACITY EXTENSION would be used for not longer than a two-year period. (See explanation under Elementary

Schools.) Mobile classrooms will be applied as a first remedy, if financially feasible, for classroom space. Because mobiles cannot be adapted for specialty spaces like art or life management, class size increases may be needed to permit students to have the same exploratory subject opportunities that exist under the maximum and extended capacity programs. Class size increases will be the option of last resort. In no case however, shall the number of students assigned to a building exceed the LUECE, unless approved by formal Board of Education resolution.

High School Capacity Calculation

Department	Design Capacity	Limited Use Emergency Capacity Extension
Art	88	104
Business	96	112
Language Arts	308	350
Home Economics	72	84
Mathematics	260	300
Physical Education	210	252
Science	264	308
Foreign Language	280	323
Journalism	24	32
Social Studies	308	350
Special Ed	20	30
Industrial tech	44	56
Music	80	100
Composition	48	56
Drama	60	72
Total	2,162	2,529
Scheduling Efficiency * = 85 percent		
Net Capacity	1,838	2,150

For high schools, maximum capacity is set by multiplying the number of teaching stations by the average class size. Once again, the District recognizes that in limited situations (*less than a two-year period*) capacity may need to be extended. In high schools, mobile classrooms may be used as general classrooms (*math, social studies, etc.*), with class size adjustments in elective courses to ensure that students' access to requested courses will not be diminished because of increased enrollments.