

Class Size, what a slippery web of data it is. This was by far the hardest thing I had to learn as a teacher and as a Union President. Some grades are a ratio by site, some by district, and some from California Ed code written in 1965. I am going to try and explain it as best as I can.

This is all from [Cal. Educ. Code § 41376](#), [Cal. Educ. Code § 41378](#), [Cal. Educ. Code § 54525](#), [Article 17 Class Size from our contract](#), and [Class Size Penalties - CalEdFacts](#)

First of all, a question I get all the time is how long do they have to get my classes fixed so that I fall within my ratio. It is an unspoken agreement that the district has the first two weeks of school or the first week of the semester. However, they have all year to get to the ideal ratio so as long as they fall under it during one point in the year, being over it at first doesn't matter. For example, if a 6th-grade teacher started out with 35 students at the beginning of the year and the district reduces the students in the class down to 32.3 within two weeks the ratio will be within the limit. They could even not replace a student who leaves for a few weeks and reduces the ratio even further.

Class Sizes K-3

24 students to 1 teacher: AVUSD has made this a priority and does not get extra money from the state anymore to keep it this way. The grant money from the state was to help them reduce the large class sizes if they wanted to a few students each year until they met the current 24 to 1 ratio. The state average is 31 students for Kinder and 32 for grades 1-3. Other districts can have this higher number because it is bargained. This average is calculated by grade level and site. For instance, you could have 3 K classes; two with 25 students, and 1 with 23 students and still have a grade and site ratio of 24.3%. The district does try and better balance the students, but some teachers decline because they want to keep their class the same. In most schools in our district it levels out by month because the students transfer from one AVUSD school to another one.

Class Size 4-6

32.3 students to 1 teacher: This average ratio is by grade throughout the whole district. For instance, you could have one site with 34 students in every 6th grade class and a site with 32 students in every 6th grade class and a site with 31 students in every 6th grade class. The average of all the sites 6th grade classes would still be within the 32.3 ratios.

Class Size 7-8

This one is trickier; it follows the CA Ed Code from 1964. It is much like the 4-6 class size because the average ratio is by grade throughout the whole district. The number is the greater of the two:

29.9 or what AVUSD's average number of students per teacher in 1964 (which was between 37 and 38). This ratio also uses the prep period to calculate the ratio. For instance, if a teacher

has 42 kids for 6 out of 7 periods, the average is still $42 \times 6 = 252$. Then you divide the 252 students into 7 periods and still get an average of 36 students per period. (I know it is ridiculous, but this is what is stated in [ed code](#)).

High School

High School has no limits, but they average the classes by doing the same trick as grade 7 and 8. This ratio also uses prep periods into the ratio. For instance, if a teacher has 42 kids for 6 out of 7 periods, the average is still $42 \times 6 = 252$. Then you divide the 252 students in between the 7 periods and still get an average of 36 students per period. [Here are some rules, they must follow.](#)

I have seen the severe unbalance of your classes since becoming President. If you have a class that is really full and a class that isn't, (the counselors are doing their best placing all the students in the amount of time and classes they are given at startup) please ask your principal if they can balance it better. Sometimes, it is as easy as buying out a prep period or adding a class. It doesn't hurt to ask and when you do, email it and cc me, so I can check up (pester) them and the District Office about it!

Every year we ask to get more detailed language, but the District Office doesn't want to have their hands tied. The union does ask if this is important when we do the annual negotiation's survey because it would cost money to make it more detailed and have caps in each grade. However, when surveyed it does not come close to the top of priorities of members to fight for in Negotiations.