

DESCRIPTOR TERM: Class Size	CODE 2100
ADOPTION DATE: May 18, 1990	REVISION: January 16, 1998 February 15, 2008

STATE BOARD POLICY

When the personnel report from each district is submitted to the Mississippi Department of Education the following procedure will be implemented:

1. If the enrollment in any class in grades 1-4 is greater than 27 and/or the number of students taught by any individual teacher exceeds 150, MDE staff will notify the district in writing and request an explanation as to the reasons for the overage.
2. The district shall submit documentation that the situation has been corrected or request an exemption. The request for exemption will describe the situation and provide justification as to why the exemption should be approved. This request should include at a minimum:
 - the number of classes in that school that serve the same grade,
 - whether there is a school reasonably close by to which the children over the maximum could be transferred,
 - a clear description of why an additional class cannot be added to alleviate the overload, and
 - other emergency, hardship, or special situations which justify an exemption.
3. The Mississippi Department of Education staff (Exemptions Committee) will review the request for exemption and make a recommendation to the State Board.
4. The State Board shall disapprove or approve exemption requests.
5. A school district may appeal the denial of an exemption by submitting a request within fourteen (14) days of receipt of notification to the State Board.
6. The State Board's decision on an appeal is final.

If a school district violates the provisions of Mississippi Code 37-151-77, the state aid for the ensuing fiscal year to such school district shall be reduced by the percentage variance that the actual pupil-teacher ratios in such school district has to the required pupil-teacher ratios mandated in this section. Any district meeting Level 4 or 5 accreditation standards, may be exempt from the maximum pupil teacher ratio in Grades 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Statutory Reference: MS Code 37-151-77

§ 37-151-77. Pupil-teacher ratio.

To qualify for funds provided in this chapter, each school district shall not exceed a pupil-teacher ratio based on enrollment in Grades 1, 2, 3 and 4 as follows: 27:1

For Grades Kindergarten and 5 through 12, pupil-teacher ratio shall be determined based on appropriate accreditation standards developed by the Mississippi Commission on School Accreditation.

Any local district may apply to the State Board of Education for approval of a waiver to this section by submitting and justifying an alternative educational program to serve the needs of enrollment in Grades Kindergarten and 1 through 4. The State Board of Education shall approve or disapprove of such waiver forty-five (45) days after receipt of such application. If a school district violates the provisions of this section, the state aid for the ensuing fiscal year to such school district shall be reduced by the percentage variance that the actual pupil-teacher ratios in such school district has to the required pupil-teacher ratios mandated in this section. Provided, that notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the State Board of Education is authorized to waive the pupil-teacher requirements specified herein upon a finding that a good faith effort is being made by the school district concerned to comply with the ratio provisions but that for lack of classroom space which was beyond its control it is physically impossible for the district to comply, and the cost of temporary classroom space cannot be justified. In the event any school district meets Level 4 or 5 accreditation standards, the State Board of Education may, in its discretion, exempt such school district from the maximum pupil-teacher ratio in Grades 1, 2, 3 and 4 prescribed herein.

Sources: Laws, 1997, ch. 612, § 4, eff from and after July 1, 2002.