

Piedmont Unified School District  
760 Magnolia Ave.  
Piedmont, Ca. 94611

## 2011-2012 Guidelines for Enrollment Capacity

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The Piedmont Unified School District strives to meet the needs of each student and believes that lower class sizes are desirable for providing a high quality educational program. We believe that the high performance of our students is in part attributable to the intense level of adult support they receive on a daily basis. In fact, our current parcel tax language encourages the District to maintain lower class sizes.

The following capacity standards are essential to providing the current program:

### **General Education Program Capacity**

#### **Beach, Havens, Wildwood Elementary Schools**

20:1 in grades K-3

25:1 in grades 4-5

#### **Piedmont Middle School**

26:1 in grades 6-8

#### **Piedmont High School**

26:1 in grades 9-12

#### **Millennium High School**

20:1 in grades 9-12

The ability to maintain these levels of capacity is financially supported by State Class Size Reduction funding and a community parcel tax. Due to unprecedented challenges caused by the State's financial crisis in education funding, we have been required to make some class size increases and operate over capacity. Although increases have been minimal, as noted on our most recent CBEDS report, the District has incurred financial penalties for classes exceeding 20:1 in grades K-3.

## **Special Education Program Capacity**

Capacity in special education is guided by a programmatic design that prioritizes low adult to student ratios and is consistent with caseload limitations defined by Education Code.

Per Education Code, Resource Specialist Caseloads must not exceed 28:1. Caseloads at the beginning of each school year are set at 20:1 in order to allow for the increase in special education students that occur over the course of a school year.

Special Day Class (aka Home Base and Intensive Language Intervention Classes) teacher to student ratios should not exceed 12:1 as the intensive needs of students in such a class require a highly individualized and closely monitored learning environment.

In order to provide a high level of student support and communication with parents of students with special needs, caseloads for special education specialists (e.g. Occupational Therapists, Speech Therapists, Adaptive Physical Education Teachers) are set at 35:1 to begin each school year.

## **Implications of Program Capacity**

The District's programmatic capacity as defined above will be utilized in making decisions about the placement of resident students who, in some cases, must be redirected to sites that are outside of their neighborhood school zone when capacity will be exceeded. In addition, programmatic capacity will guide the District's ability to accept or deny and place inter-district transfer requests.