

KEEPING UP WITH THE BUDGET: INSTALLMENT #2

The second installment of *Keeping up with the Budget* is class size. There is much research about the effect of class size in student achievement. The research studies give varying opinions about how large the effect is, but one thing is clear: For students in schools working to raise achievement using the highly effective strategy of continual feedback (or formative assessment), class size is a **critical component** of a teacher's ability to address individual needs. Our overall student count at this time of the year is comparable to last year's including about 15-20 students at the Lincoln School. The numbers fluctuate from the beginning to the end of the year. But in general, we continue to not experience the declining enrollment that other schools have. Thus, the adjustment to our staffing patterns represents an increase in average class size of about 2. The chart below compares the class sizes for this school year (2009-2010) and the projected class sizes for next year (2010-2011) with two fewer teachers. You will note that we are anticipating a stable total student count. The reduction in the teaching force as reflected in the proposed budget for the 2010-2011 school year is matched by a reduction of two paraeducators who provide assistance to individual students and to teachers in the lowest grades. These reductions will affect the level of individual attention students will receive. We feel that we will still be able to maintain the quality of our instructional program, but would be concerned should the levels rise any further.

We look forward to your comments and concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact the administration by clicking on our names under the Administration button on the webpage.

Grade	Number of			Number of Teachers Per Grade Level 2010-2011	Number of	
	Teachers Per Grade Level 2009-2010	Students Per Grade Level 2009-2010 as of 1/11/10	Average class size 2009-2010		Teachers Per Grade Level 2010-2011	Students Per Grade Level 2010-2011
PK	2	72	max to 14 per session - includes 25 in Lincoln School	2	72	max to 14 per session
K	5	84	16.8	4	70	17.5
1	5	73	14.6	5	84	16.8
2	4	73	18.25	4	73	18.25
3	4	56	14	4	73	18.25
4	4	68	17	3	56	18.6
5	3	58	19.3	4	68	17
6	4	70	17.5	3	58	19.3
Multi-age 7/8	7	119	17	7	120	17.14
Total or average	38	673	16.80625	36	674	18.0333333

