

**Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union
Middletown Springs Town School District
Tinmouth Town School District**

**Ira Town School District
Poultney Town School District
Wells Town School District**

Optimum Class Size

**Code # G-14
Mandatory**

Policy:

It is the policy of the Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union and its member districts to provide all students an appropriate education in a safe environment conducive to learning. The boards recognize that a small class size contributes to such an environment and it is the goal to provide quality instruction and consistency across all grade levels.

For the purposes of this policy, class size is defined as the number of students in the room and student-teacher ratio. Accordingly, class size will be determined by the Superintendent or designee in consideration of:

1. Following the recommendations of the Vermont Quality School Standards – Section 2120.8.1.2 which states:
 - At the elementary level, classrooms in grades K-3, shall average fewer than 20 students per teacher. In grades 4/8, when taken together, classrooms shall average fewer than 25 students per teacher.
 - At the secondary level, the total class rolls of an English Language Arts teacher should not exceed 100 students. In other disciplines, class rolls shall not average more than 150 students per teacher, except where the specific nature of the teacher’s assignment, such as in certain art, music or physical education programs, is plainly adaptable to the teaching of greater numbers of students while meeting the educational goals of the program.
2. Class size will further be determined according to curriculum grade level and specific curricular activity (e.g. an elementary class room may be assigned more students than a secondary lab). It is the intent of this policy that technical support systems and other physical equipment be proportionate to the number of students in any classroom.
3. Class size, while subject to budget constraints, must be consistent with safe staffing patterns, including para-educators who are assigned to classrooms or other duties rather than those assigned to specific students.
4. Current Life Safety Codes, contained in NFPA 101, Section 11-17 and Section 11-2 (National Fire Protection Association) recommend twenty (20) net square feet per person and 50 net square feet for shops, laboratories and similar vocational rooms to assure adequate egress. The code allows for modification from the specified square footage if necessary aisles and exits are provided (Section 11-7.3).

*Ref: Vermont School Quality Standards
Vermont Department of Education, State Board of Education Manual of Rules and Practices, § 2378.*

| | Date Adopted | Replaces Policy |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union | 12/20/10 | None |
| Ira Town School District | See RSWSU | None |
| Middletown Springs Town School District | 1/20/11 | None |
| Poultney Town School District | 1/11/11 | None |
| Tinmouth Town School District | 1/10/11 | None |
| Wells Town School District | 2/9/11 | None |