



Tim Forson
Superintendent of Schools

2019-2020 School Year

40 Orange Street
St. Augustine, Florida 32084
(904) 547-7500
www.stjohns.k12.fl.us

Dear Parent/Guardian:

SCHOOL BOARD

Beverly Slough
District 1

Tommy Allen
District 2

Bill Mignon
District 3

Kelly Barrera
District 4

Patrick Canan
District 5

The St. Johns County School District (SJCS) is required by the State of Florida Constitution to fully implement the Class Size Amendment (CSA). The CSA requires that core classes not exceed the following numbers of students in specific grade levels:

Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 3:	18 students
Grade 4 through Grade 8:	22 students
Grade 9 through Grade 12:	25 students

In order to comply with these class limits, the SJCS must make some difficult choices. One of the unfortunate consequences of the CSA is the need to make student placement decisions and adjustments based on the number of students, rather than strictly on the needs of the students. We have also had to decrease the number of elective choices available to students in order to increase the required number of core classes.

Financial implications to the CSA include hiring personnel, adding relocatables or finding additional space within our current facilities, purchasing additional textbooks for teachers, etc. Our school district is using "co-teaching" as one method to meet the CSA. Adding a teacher to the classroom keeps the class from being split, which creates less disruption and more consistency for our students. It is, however, not a perfect solution, as the cost of the second teacher must be absorbed by the district.

The dynamic of a mobile and growing student population adds another layer of difficulty to student placement. As students enroll or withdraw in a school, the class size caps must be maintained. Therefore, all families enrolling their child(ren) should be aware that classroom assignments may require a change in student placement to comply with the CSA. Students will be placed in an available seat in their grade. Should shifts from one classroom to another be necessary, either a volunteer or a selected student will be moved.

Immediately following the tenth day of school (August 23rd), all classes will be balanced, which could include moving teachers, associate teachers and/or students. Additional balancing based on growth or student movement will continue until September 14th. We will make every attempt to minimize student movement, but we must be both fiscally responsible and CSA compliant.

The State now allows certain schools that qualify to maintain class size by average in each grade grouping. The District may utilize the flexibility of class size average when it is deemed appropriate for both student achievement and fiscal responsibility at the eligible schools.

We have always held, and will continue to hold, the educational needs of all students as a high priority. Thank you for your understanding with this challenging requirement. If you have any questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to call your child's principal.

Sincerely,

Tim Forson
Superintendent of Schools

2.8.19