



**WAKE COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**

**Superintendent's Office**

**Dr. James G. Merrill, Superintendent**

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Dear Members of the Wake County Delegation,

During a recent meeting of the Wake County Board of Education, our members requested I contact you regarding class-size requirements for the 2018-2019 school year.

As members of the Wake Delegation, you know our county has enjoyed robust growth year after year. It is currently one of the fastest growing large counties in the nation.

Of course, that residential growth is uneven and families move frequently. This has created a situation in Wake where well-intended legislation will increase student reassignments, decrease operating efficiency and, most importantly, threaten the quality of classroom instruction we all seek to improve.

As part of an effort led by their peers, every WCPSS elementary school principal gathered on four separate occasions this summer to review detailed building plans and class schedules. They did this to determine how they might accommodate 2018-2019 class size requirements.

More than 90 of our 113 elementary school principals believe the new regulations will disrupt their school communities. Their recommendations, which they do not want to implement, include moving art and music teachers out of their classrooms, creating upper elementary grades with more than 30 students and placing two teachers in some classrooms. A more detailed list is included in this message to you.

They also found that solutions varied greatly from school to school, a finding I suspect is true from district to district.

In the spirit of working together as elected leaders, our board members would welcome an invitation to discuss this topic further.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James G. Merrill".

Dr. James G. Merrill  
WCPSS Superintendent