

Swift Creek PTA Advocacy Update: Information about K-3 Class Size Mandate

Ways You Can Get Involved!

- Get informed. Great resource is webinar from Public Schools of NC and NC PTA available from PTA website: <http://swiftcreekeswcpssnetptahtml.weebly.com/>. Share with friends and family!
- Contact your representatives in the NC General Assembly. Find out who represents you at <https://www.ncleg.net/representation/WhoRepresentsMe.aspx>

NC Senate:

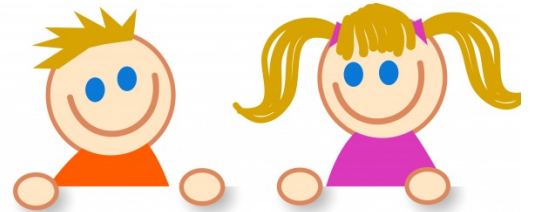
District Number	Senator Name and Contact Info
NC Senate District 17	Senator Tamara Barringer NC Senate 300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 629 Raleigh, NC 27603-5925 919-733-5653 Tamara.Barringer@ncleg.net
NC Senate District 16	Senator Jay J. Chaudhuri NC Senate 16 W Jones Street, Room 1121 Raleigh, NC 27601-2808 919-715-6400 Jay.Chaudhuri@ncleg.net

NC House:

District Number	Representative Name and Contact Info
NC House District 36	Representative Nelson Dollar NC House of Representatives 300 N Salisbury Street, Room 307B Raleigh, NC 27603-5925 919-715-0795 Nelson.Dollar@ncleg.net
NC House District 33	Representative Rosa U. Gill NC House of Representatives 16 W Jones Street, Room 1303 Raleigh, NC 27601-1096 919-733-5880 Rosa.Gill@ncleg.net

Call, Email, Write, or Visit!

When talking to your senator or representative, make it PERSONAL! Explain how this unfunded mandate will affect your family and your community.



Sign petition from Public Schools First NC:

<https://www.publicschoolsfirstnc.org/current-petitions/>

Jan 6 1:00pm: Rally to Stop Class Size Chaos

<https://www.facebook.com/events/456864611381620/>

Jan 9: Tweet Storm #ClassSizeChaos

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1460881780660278/>

Jan 10: Advocacy Day at NC General Assembly

<https://www.facebook.com/events/367356053689306/>

Swift Creek PTA Position Statement for K-3 Class Size Mandate

Approved at General Membership Meeting Dec 12, 2017

Swift Creek Elementary PTA believes that every child must be provided with a well-rounded, high-quality education, which will ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential and become productive members of society.

Last year, the NC General Assembly passed its budget with a section that limited class sizes for grades K-3 starting with the 2018-2019 school year. These limits are Kindergarten 18 students, First Grade: 16 students, Second Grade: 17 students, Third Grade: 17 students; and no limits on all higher grade classes.

The state of North Carolina has not provided funding for the additional teachers and staff needed to implement the new class size mandates nor the capital funding to create additional classroom space needed to implement the new class size mandates.

Unfortunately, the unintended consequences result in an unfunded mandate that would require thousands of new K-3 teachers in public school across the state, and more than 400 teachers in Wake County Public School Systems (WCPSS) alone.

WCPSS does not currently have the facilities for these 400 new elementary classes, nor the certified teachers for these classes. As a result, all schools, including Swift Creek Elementary might have to put multiple classes in a classroom, use libraries or office space for classrooms, reduce or eliminate some instructional programs, such as art and music, to accommodate the mandate.

Swift Creek Elementary PTA requests that the General Assembly of North Carolina restore local flexibility over class size to the original House Bill 13, which allows local districts flexibility to change the Kindergarten to Third student ratio up to six additional students in an individual class or average ratio increase by three additional students per school and/or establish a hardship waiver for school districts whose quality of education will be diminished through the class size mandate.

Swift Creek Elementary PTA will also support legislation that gives local school districts funding, authority and flexibility to support enhancement teachers and special programs in schools.

Swift Creek Elementary PTA encourages parents and staff to contact their legislators to share their concerns and opinions on the legislation. To stay informed, visit our PTA website at <http://swiftcreekeswcpssnetptahtml.weebly.com/> or our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/swiftcreekespta>.