

11/05/2025

“Too High” Enrollment Discussion Results:

What does it look like in your context?

Enrollment Thresholds:

- Anything over 4 sections would be too high at the ES level
- No available space
- Using spaces for other than intended purposes
- When the physical space is not enough for the students assigned to it to fit comfortably

Utilization of Facility Capacity:

- When you have to bring in trailers to make classrooms

Class Size and Student-to-Teacher Ratios:

- When a school houses special programs 90% of facility capacity is too high
- Space can affect educational decisions if you don't have classroom space to add
- Teachers don't have enough time to adequately take care of student needs

Program and Service Sustainability:

- Higher expenses for teachers to facilitate lessons by having to purchase more materials for bigger classes
- Congestion to move from class to class in secondary schools
- Retention (staff) becomes an issue as people cannot sustain certain situations/schedules due to overcapacities

Risks and Liability Threshold:

- Lack of supervision- students fall through the cracks
- Potential decrease in course diversity because staff has to teach main courses in order to provide for anyone

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What challenges arise when enrollment becomes too high?

Educational Quality:

- Safety during passing periods
- The ability to deal with a variety of student levels of ability declines in large classes
- Still have possible travel staff

Staffing:

- As a teacher, I am better when I teach 6 or 7 sections a day versus 8
- Staff turnover due to burnout
- The pressure it puts on food service and custodial staff
 - Staffing stays the same regardless of enrollment
 - More expensive to have to hire more staff to try and accommodate more students

Facilities and Operations:

- Higher enrollment overloads bathrooms causing plumbing issues
- Not enough storage, freezer or refrigerator space to serve the kids early to late serving times – cafeterias not large enough
- Heating and cooling/ design capacity issues

Community:

- Sports, clubs, and activities have limited capacity
- Traffic issues caused by more busses and drop-off/ pick-up car rider lines

Risk and Liability:

- Relationships and sense of belonging
- Supervision and classroom management become more difficult
- Problematic behaviors increase in a crowded environment
- Safety
- Increased costs
- Kids getting lost in the shuffle- not getting the attention they need
- Developing a sense of belonging for staff becomes strained
 - Retaining staff is important and feeling like they are a part of something bigger is important for all schools
 - In the business of people :)