

# IMPACT OF CLASS SIZE INCREASES

On March 15, 2019, Minister of Education Lisa Thompson announced the average high school class size would increase from 22 to 28 students. This increase will take effect in the 2019–20 school year, with the full impact of lost teaching positions to be realized by the 2022–23 school year.

OSSTF/FEESO simulated the class size increases in 60 schools across Ontario to determine the estimated impact on classroom sections. Further, OSSTF/FEESO estimated the potential shortfall of teachers with particular qualifications who retire and are not likely to be replaced.

## What is a classroom SECTION?

Put simply, a teacher *SECTION* is a course. A full-time teacher delivers six courses or *SECTIONS* per school year. Therefore, when you remove a full-time teaching job from a school and do not replace that teacher, that school will lose **six SECTIONS** or classes no longer taught or delivered to students. That reduces the number of courses available to students to select each year.

## SMALL-SIZED SCHOOLS

Twenty-two of the 60 schools surveyed had an average daily enrolment of less than 500 students. To put this into context using the schools we surveyed, a school of 260 students would have approximately 113 classroom sections available to students to take a variety of courses. In these schools, an estimated average of 28 classroom sections will no longer exist as a result of these cuts. Four years from now, only 85 such sections will exist.

Further, upon analysis of qualifications associated with those retiring or losing employment in these small schools, HALF of these schools could lose all teachers qualified in areas such as French/ languages, music, physical education, geography, guidance, co-op, visual arts, math, business, biology, computer science and/or technology (construction, transportation).

In addition, just over half of these schools would see a reduction of at least 50% of the teachers who are qualified in areas such as French/English, music, sciences, math, physical education and/or technology.



## MEDIUM-SIZED SCHOOLS

Twenty-three of the 60 schools surveyed had an average daily enrolment between 500 and 1000 students. To put this into context using the schools we surveyed, a school with 715 students would have approximately 250 classroom sections available to students to take a variety of courses. In these schools, an average of 62 classroom sections will no longer exist as a result of these cuts.

Four years from now, only 188 such sections will exist.

Further, upon analysis of qualifications associated with those retiring or losing employment in these mid-size schools, it is reported that approximately 40% of these school will lose all teachers qualified in areas such as languages, drama, green industries, co-op, computer science, and/or technology (construction, communications technology, manufacturing and information technology).

In addition, over 60% of these schools will see a reduction of at least 50% of teachers who are qualified in areas such as drama, technology, family studies, music, computer science, physics/chemistry, French, law, and/or business.

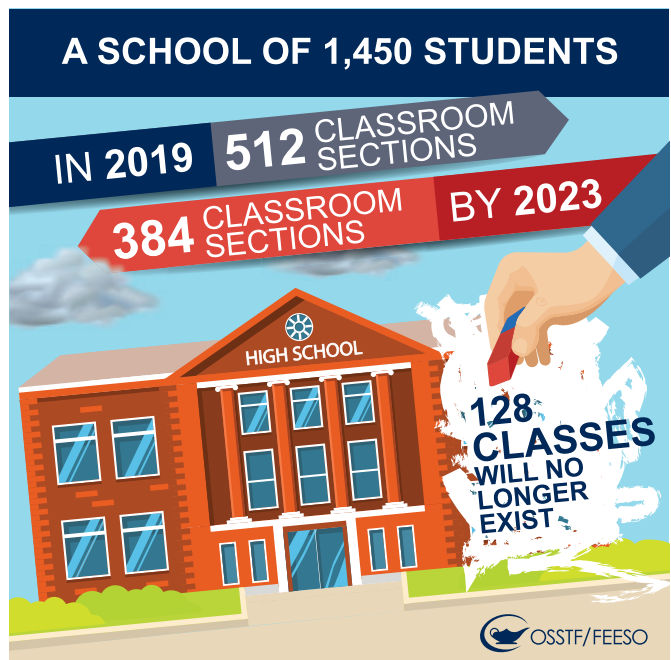
## LARGE-SIZED SCHOOLS

Fifteen of the 60 schools surveyed had an average daily enrolment of 1000 students or more. To put this into context using the schools we surveyed, a school with 1450 students would have approximately 512 classroom sections available to students to take a variety of courses. In these schools, an average of 128 classroom sections will no longer exist as a result of these cuts.

Four years from now, only 384 such sections will exist.

Further, upon analysis of qualifications associated with those retiring or losing employment in these large schools, it is reported that approximately 33% of these school will lose all teachers qualified in areas such as languages, law, economics, family studies, music, and/or technology (health, culinary arts and graphic arts).

In addition, over 80% of these schools will see a reduction of at least 50% of teachers who are qualified in areas such as business/economics, music, French/languages, law, computer science, drama, art, social sciences, and/or technology (communications technology, transportation, construction and hospitality).



### So what does this mean?

In order for school boards to meet the new average class size requirements, schools will be hard pressed to accommodate the same number of students in approximately 25% fewer classroom sections.

In order for this to happen, schools may need to:

- Cancel course options, thereby forcing students into classes that do not align with their interests or requirements to get into certain post-secondary programs
- Cancel some core programs, including Science, Technology, Math (STEM)
- Combine classes—multiple level (i.e. Applied with Academic, College with University), multiple grades, or multiple courses in one classroom, making curriculum delivery and providing of individual attention much more difficult
- Significantly increase class sizes
- CLOSE, especially in rural communities, if unable to provide minimum core programming

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