



Buffalo Teachers Federation, Inc.  
271 Porter Avenue  
Buffalo, New York 14201  
(716) 881-5400  
www.btfny.org

President, PHILIP RUMORE

May 11, 2021

MEMO TO: Dr. Kriner Cash, Superintendent, BPS  
Members, Buffalo Board of Education

FROM: Philip Rumore, President, BTF

RE: Reduction of Class Size/Class Loads, Increased Support Services

Yes, many of our students have done well despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; however, many have not, both academically and socially/emotionally.

Summer school will be of some assistance and we understand that much thought and effort is going into it; however, it will not be enough to overcome the academic and social/emotional needs of many of our students.

Indeed, many, for various reasons, may choose not to attend summer school.

Study after study has proven that reducing class size, especially in districts with “the lowest per-capita incomes”, not only significantly improved student performance in grades K-3 (Pre-K was not studied as it was not available in all schools, but obviously would have provided similar results) but in grades 4-7 and obviously also in 8-12. ([Click Here](#))

Please note that the “regular class size” in the study was 22-25 and the reduced (small) class size was 13-17 students.

Please also note that Districts with the greatest percentage of the “lowest per-capita incomes” went from “far below the state average to above average” as a result of the class size reductions.

The implementation of those studies is even more critical now.

Our students have suffered the terrible impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now more than ever they need the implementation of a long-term program to help them, their teachers, parents and staff overcome the serious harm that has occurred.

However, it is not just the students in the early grades that have suffered, all of our students have been harmed both academically and emotionally.

We believe that it is critical that the District now develop a plan for implementation in September 2021 that utilizes the significant Federal Funding earmarked to address these issues by:

- Substantially reducing class sizes, class loads, and caseloads in all grades beginning in September. If schools need to be reopened, the reopening planning process should take place immediately.
- Class Sizes should be reduced to the following or lower:

Elementary	Maximum
Kindergarten	13
Primary Grades	13
Fourth –Sixth Grades	13
Secondary	
Honors and Regents English	100
Honors and Regents – Others	100
Basic English	80
Basic – Others	80
Vocational Trades/CTE	15
Industrial Arts	15
Home and Career Skills Economics - Food, Clothing	15
Home Economics – Others	15
Drafting	15
Computer Science	15
Music Classes	20
Art	20
Physical Education	20
Study Halls	25
Science Labs	15
Swimming	20
Advanced Placement	15
International Baccalaureate	15
English as a Second Language	15

#### Special Education Classes

Special Education classes shall contain no more than 65% of the maximum number of students prescribed by the Commissioner’s Regulations.

- Student Support

School Counselors (1-100) Case Load  
 School Social Workers (1-100) Case Load  
 Psychologists (1-100) Case Load  
 Attendance Teachers (1-100) Case Load

Yes, this will be costly; however, we believe that twenty percent (20%) of over \$200,000,000 in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds received by the District is to be used for such purposes, i.e. to address “learning losses”.

As you know, additional funding for this is available from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA Act). We believe the District is to receive \$89,000,000.

Our students need more than a summer school program. They need a comprehensive plan that allows them to receive the individualized instruction and support that will last for at least a year.

As the shortage of teachers becomes greater, it will be important to start recruiting now.

Study after study has shown the direct relation between smaller class sizes and improved student achievement.

This is true now more than ever.

Hopefully, you will agree and begin to plan for this tomorrow.

We look forward to working with you to have any such plans approved by the respective agencies.

PR:su