

Amends G.S. 115C-301 to phase in class size requirements for grades K-3 over a four-year period rather than the two-year period outlined in S.L. 2017-9. Exceptions to class size caps include dual language immersion classes and program enhancement classes, including arts disciplines of dance, music, theater, and the visual arts; physical education and health programs; world languages; and other supplemental classes as defined by the State Board of Education. Phase-in requirements place the following limits on student ratios in K-3 classes:

- 2017-2018 and 2018-2019: average of 20, no more than 23.
- 2019-2020: average of 19, no more than 22.
- 2020-2021: average of 18, no more than 21.
- 2021-2022 and beyond: The class size requirements will be as set forth in G.S. 115C-301. This will require for kindergarten, average of 18 and no more than 21; for first grade, average of 16 and no more than 19; and for second and third grade, average of 17 and no more than 20.