



EDMONTON  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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## News Release

### Edmonton Catholic Schools Release Class Size Information

Class size numbers released at tonight's Board meeting indicate a decrease in the number of classes above district guidelines this year compared to last year at Edmonton Catholic Schools.

Only 21 out of 1,923 classes in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are above district guidelines. This compares to 25 classes over guideline in the 2002-2003 school year. District guidelines indicate that any classes over 30 students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 or 35 students in Grades 4 to 12 need the approval of the Superintendent.

"When a principal asks for approval of a class to stay above guideline, we take a look at the composition of that class; are there students who have special needs, what is the subject, does the class have access to a teacher aide," said Dr. Dale Ripley, Superintendent. "It is only after reviewing all of the information that we then make a decision. Each class is looked at individually," Dr. Ripley went on to say.

One of the classes over guideline is in Primary (Kindergarten to Grade 3), three are in upper Elementary (Grades 4 to 6), one in Junior High and 16 in High School. The majority of these classes are one or two students over guideline. Overall, 98.5 percent of classes in high school are below 35 students and in Kindergarten to Grade 9, 99.5 percent are below district guidelines.

"What the data tells us in comparing this year to last year is that for every four classes in our district in Kindergarten to Grade 9, three are the same as last year and the fourth has one additional student this year," says Charlie Koester, Board Chairperson. "When you take a look throughout the district, our class sizes remain very positive," said Koester.

Edmonton Catholic Schools' enrolment for 2003-2004 is 30,974. This year's enrolment is 34 fewer students than in 2002-2003, but the number of Kindergarten students increased by 6.3 percent this September.

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For more information contact:

Charlie Koester  
Board Chairperson  
Edmonton Catholic Schools  
(780) 445-4722

Lori Nagy  
Media Relations  
Edmonton Catholic Schools  
(780) 441-6189