Targeting Additional Teachers to Reduce Class Sizes: Secondary Examples

At middle schools and high schools, even fractional amounts of additional teacher FTE* can make a significant difference in reducing the largest class sizes, if it is strategically targeted.

Some examples from 4J principals:

Middle Schools:

- With an additional 0.25 FTE, we could add a Language Arts 6 section. Currently, there are 146 students to be split into four sections of language arts, so the average class size is 36.5. If we added a fifth section, then the average would lower to 29.2 students per class.

- If we had 0.2 FTE more, we would add an 8th grade science class. We currently have five sections of 8th grade science with an average class size of 35. With six sections we would have an average class size of 29.

- If we had an additional 0.4 FTE, we could bring class sizes for our 6th grade language arts block from 35–40 down to 28–32.

- If we were given another 0.25 FTE, we could add a Language Arts 7/8 section. We have eleven sections of language arts for 383 7th and 8th graders. If we added a twelfth section, the average class size would drop from 34.8 to 31.9 students.

- Our 8th grade language arts classes have between 35 and 40 students. With an additional 0.2 FTE we could add a section and bring class sizes down to 28–30.

High Schools:

- We have three sections of PE classes that average over 50 students. An additional section costing just 0.08 FTE would make the class sizes more manageable and more safe at 37–38 students.

- An additional 0.17 FTE would improve the workload distribution of students in our Spanish classes. There are five sections of Spanish 1 that average 35 students per class. With one extra section, classes would decrease to 28 students over five sections for foundational Spanish.

* FTE = Full-time equivalent staff. 1 FTE is defined as a regular position scheduled to work 8 hours per day.