



Committee of the Whole (Special Meeting)

Report No. 28

CW: 30A

Monday, October 5, 2020

Electronic Meeting

Members Present Alexander Brown (Chair), Michelle Aarts, Rachel Chernos Lin, Stephanie Donaldson, Trixie Doyle, Harpreet Gill, Parthi Kandavel, Shelley Laskin, James Li, Dan MacLean, Christopher Mammoliti, Chris Moise, Patrick Nunziata, Zakir Patel, Robin Pilkey, Yalini Rajakulasingam, David Smith, Anu Sriskandarajah, Jennifer Story, Chris Tonks, Manna Wong

Regrets Alexandra Lulka

Trustees participated by electronic means in accordance with [amendments to Section 7 of Ontario Regulations 463/97, Electronic Meetings](#)

PART A: Committee Recommendations

No matters to report.

PART B: Information Only

1. Call to Order and Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

A special electronic meeting of the Committee of the Whole was convened on Monday, October 5, 2020 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:51 p.m. with Alexander Brown presiding.

2. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interest

No matters to report

3. Delegations

re Outdoor Education

1. Kate Lawrie Van de Ven, Parent, Ph. D Candidate York University
2. Melanie de Wit, Parent, Public Health and Risk Management Specialist

4. Update on COVID-19 Related Matters Affecting Schools

The Committee heard an update from Staff on the impact COVID-19 has had on staffing and Virtual School (see attached).

5. Adjournment

On motion of Trustee Laskin, seconded by Trustee Patel, the meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

PART C: Ongoing Matters

No matters to report

Submitted by: Alexander Brown, Committee Chair

Elementary Class Reorganization Update

Committee of the Whole

October 5, 2020



Agenda

- Virtual School Update
- Enrolment and Class Size Information
- Impact of Enrolment Changes
- Elementary Registration Process
- Elementary Reorganization Process
- Reorganization Timelines
- Health and Safety Strategies
- Update: COVID-19 Screening Guidance
- Outdoor Classrooms

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Virtual School Update

TDSB Virtual Secondary School:

- 17,970 students and 770 teachers
- planning for Quadmester 2 (starts November 23)
- deadline to request a switch to VS is October 15 at 4 p.m.

TDSB Virtual Elementary School:

- currently 58,277 students and over 2500 FTE staff
- as of October 5 at 11:30 a.m. we have 35 classes without a teacher LC1 - 4; LC2 - 7; LC3 - 20; LC4 - 4



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Strategies to fill remaining vacancies:

- Caps in all classes were slightly raised to accommodate more students thus reducing the number of vacancies
- Some grades were combined until reorganization
- English speaking Occasional teachers were assigned to FI/Extended French classes until reorganization is complete
- Recruiting outside of Ontario continues for long term needs
- Continuous hiring of Occasional teachers to fill vacancies and absences



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Enrolment and Class Size Information

Elementary Enrolment as of September 30, 2020

	In-Person	Virtual	Total
Actual	109,835	58,399	168,234
Projected	120,914	51,700	172,614
Difference	(11,080)	6,699	(4,381)

Projected Elementary Enrolment as of October 13, 2020

	In-Person	Virtual	Total
Actual	106,523	63,360	169,883
Projected	120,914	51,700	172,614
Difference	(14,392)	11,660	(2,732)

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Actual	52,992	17,357	70,349
Projected	56,969	14,267	71,236
Difference	(3,978)	3,090	(887)

System Projected Enrolments as of September 30, 2020

	In-Person	Virtual	Total
Actual	159,514	80,717	240,231
Projected	177,883	65,967	243,850
Difference	(18,369)	14,750	(3,619)



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Impact of Enrolment Changes

- 7,882 Students moved to virtual schools
- 2,921 Students moved to In-person schools
- If the projected enrolments of October 13 come in as planned, the financial impact to the GSN will be approximately \$40.0M
- Impact of changes to FSL enrolments not known at this time
- ESL enrolment in line with revised projections used for budget



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Elementary Reorganization Process

Targeted Class Size Caps

School	JK/SK	Grades 1 to 3	Grades 4 to 8
Virtual School	29	20	35
TDSB Identified High Priority Schools(based on TPH and other criteria)	15	20	20
All Other Schools	24	20	27



Elementary Reorganization Process

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Current Average Class Sizes

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All Other Schools	17.55	16.33	20.39

Please note these averages and graphics do not include Special Education classes.



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All Other Schools	19.77	17.68	23.54



Elementary Reorganization Process

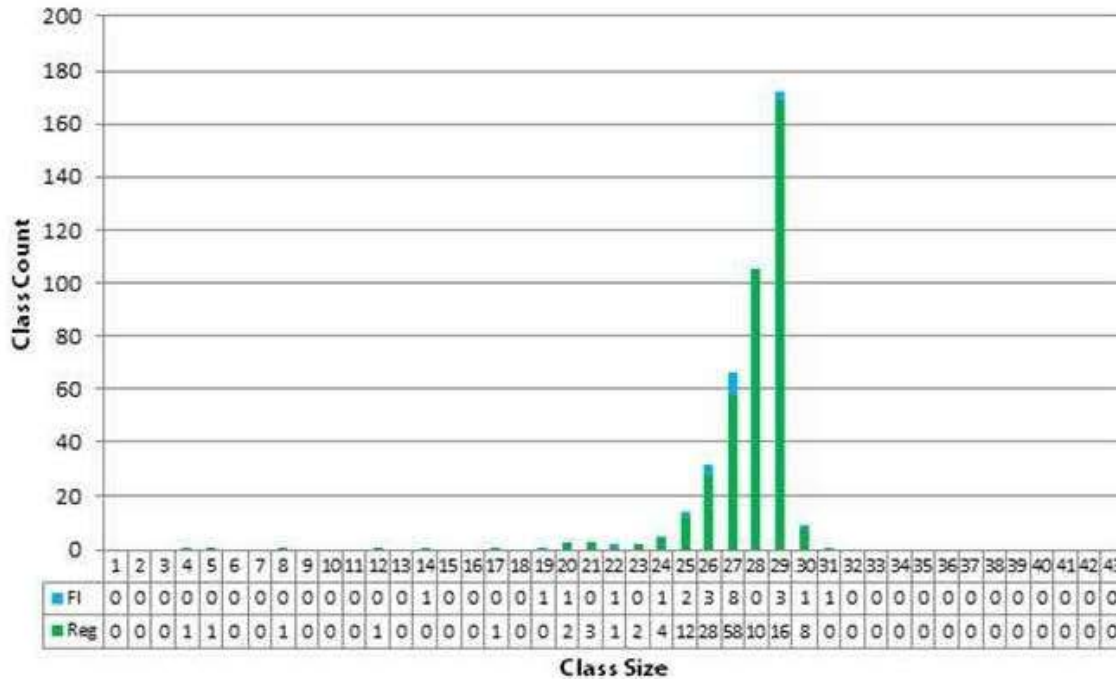
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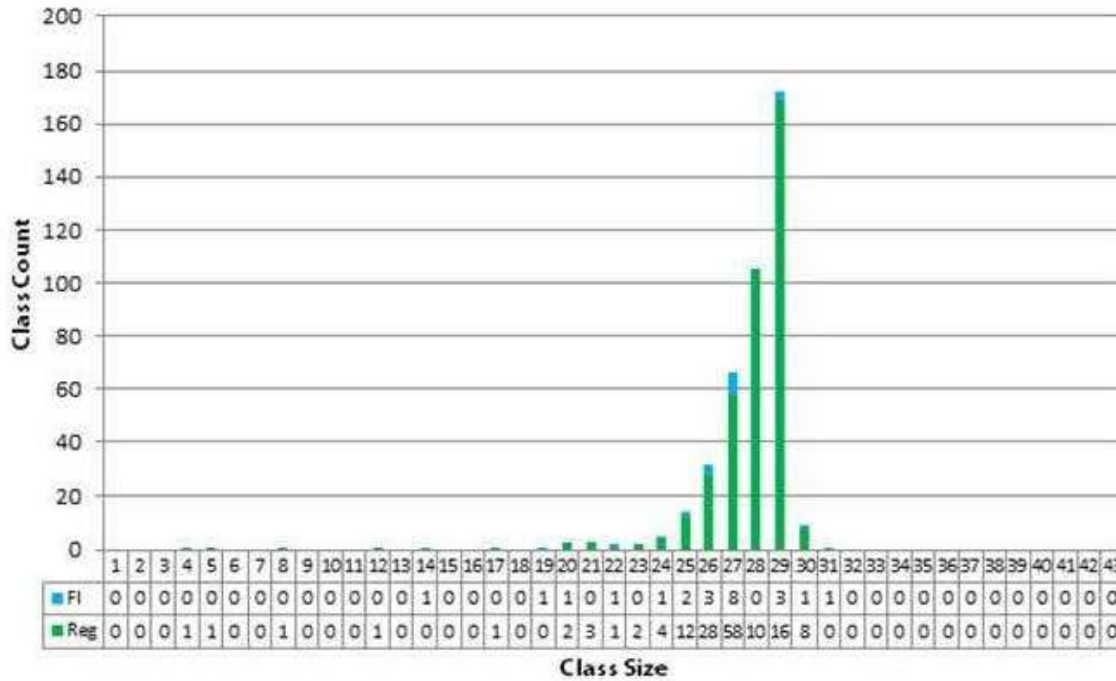
Virtual School

Count of Classes by Class Size - FDK -
October 2, 2020



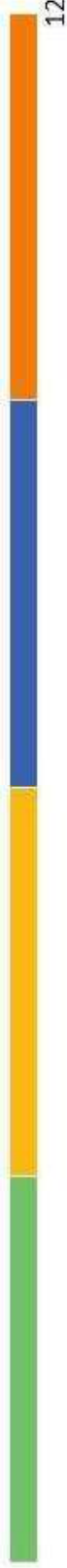
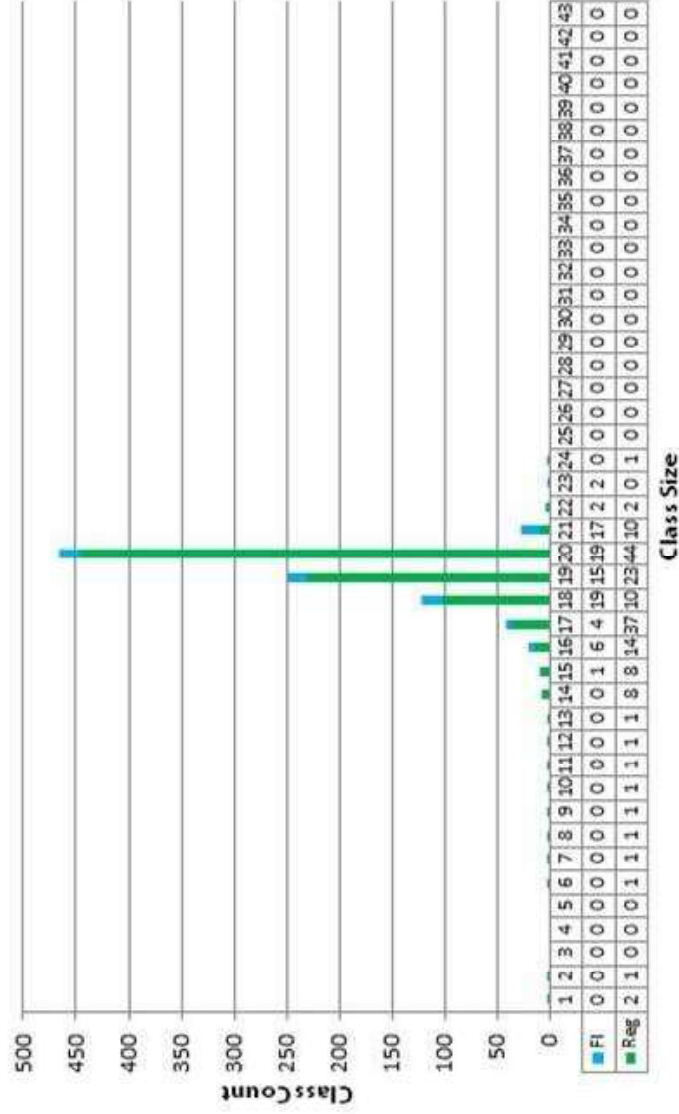
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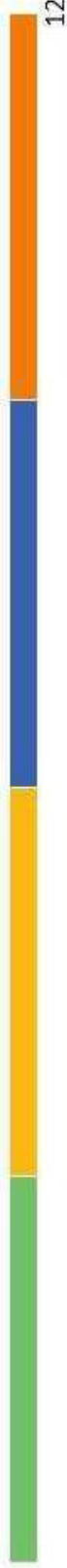
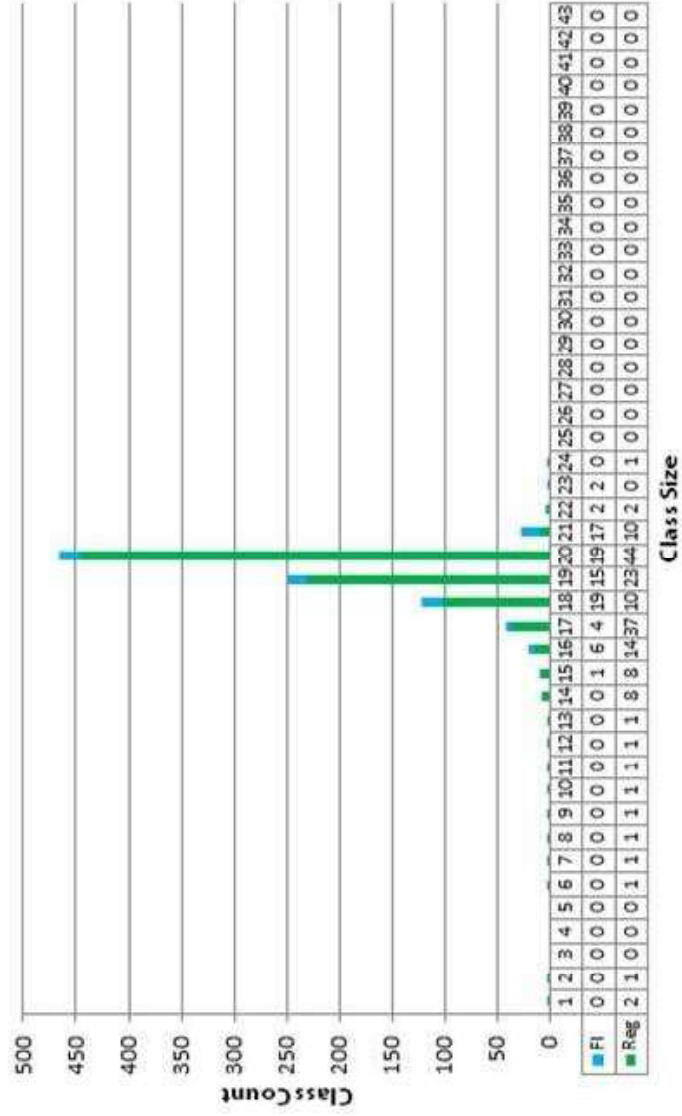
Virtual School

Count of Classes by Class Size - Gr 1-3 -
October 2, 2020*



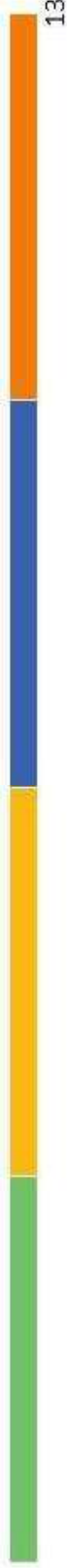
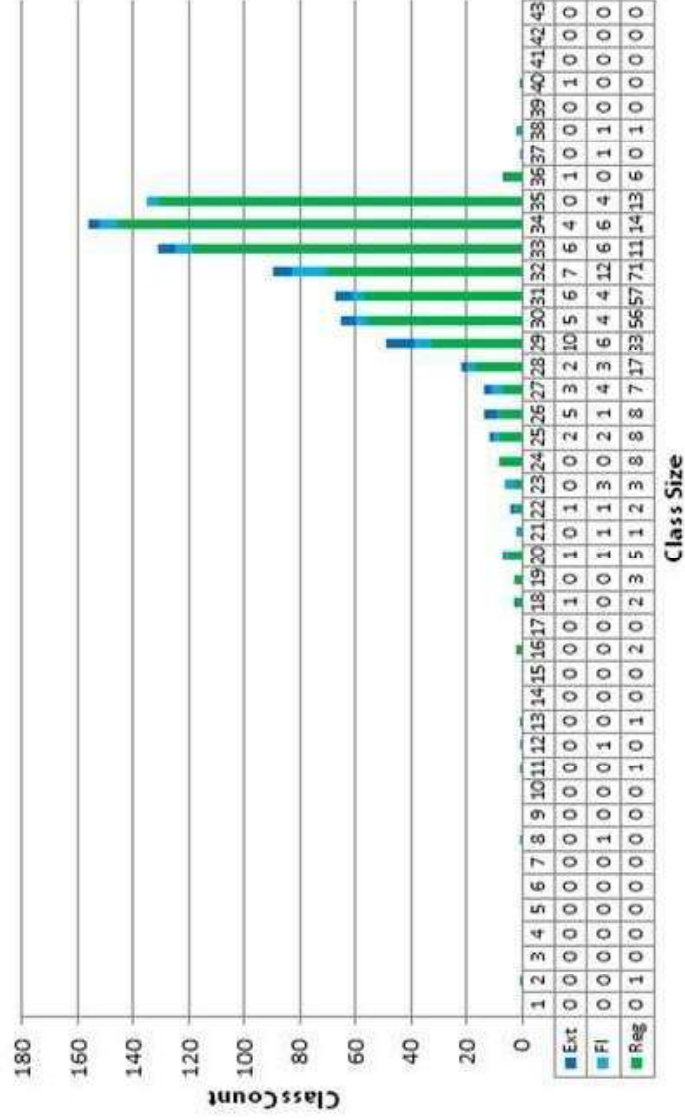
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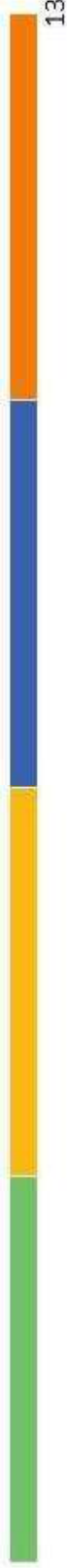
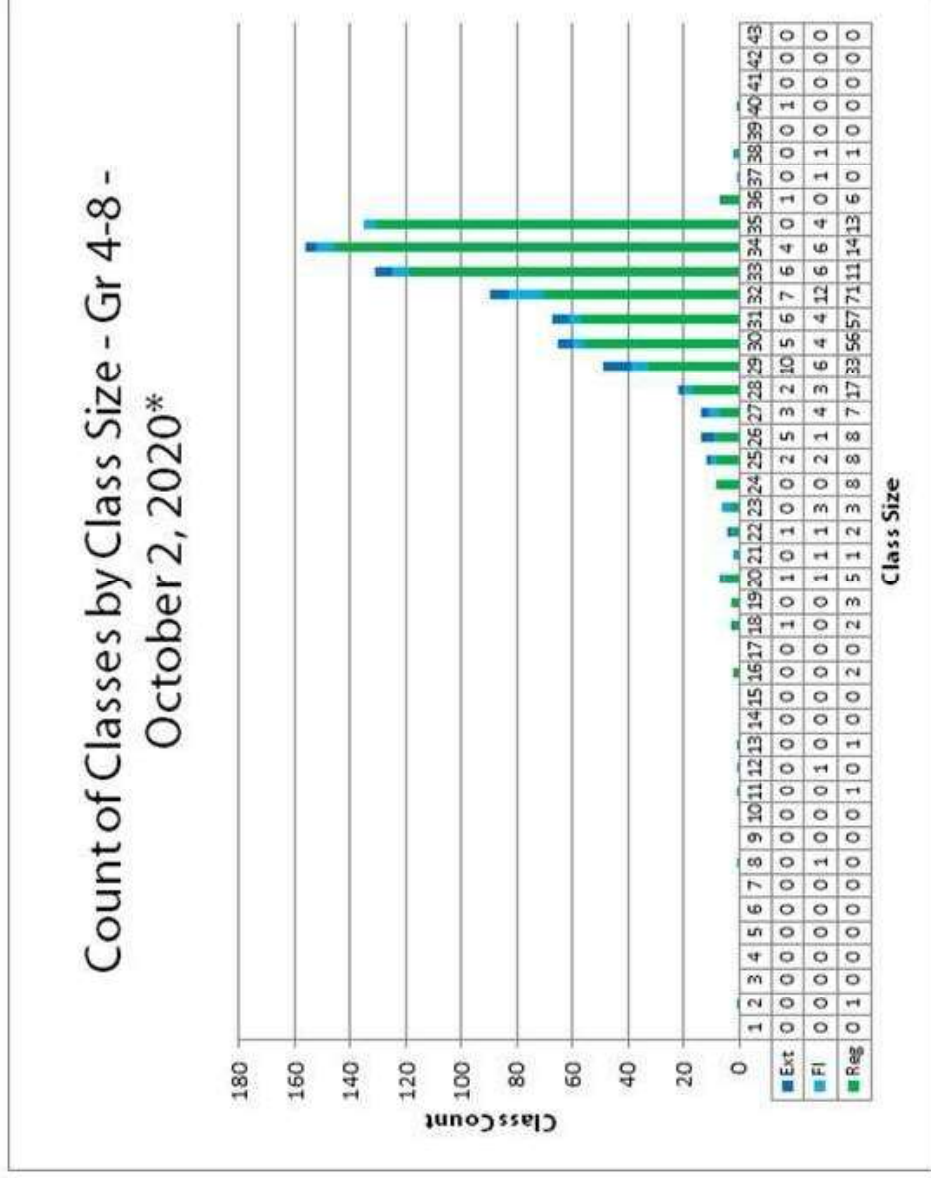
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Count of Classes by Class Size - Gr 4-8 -
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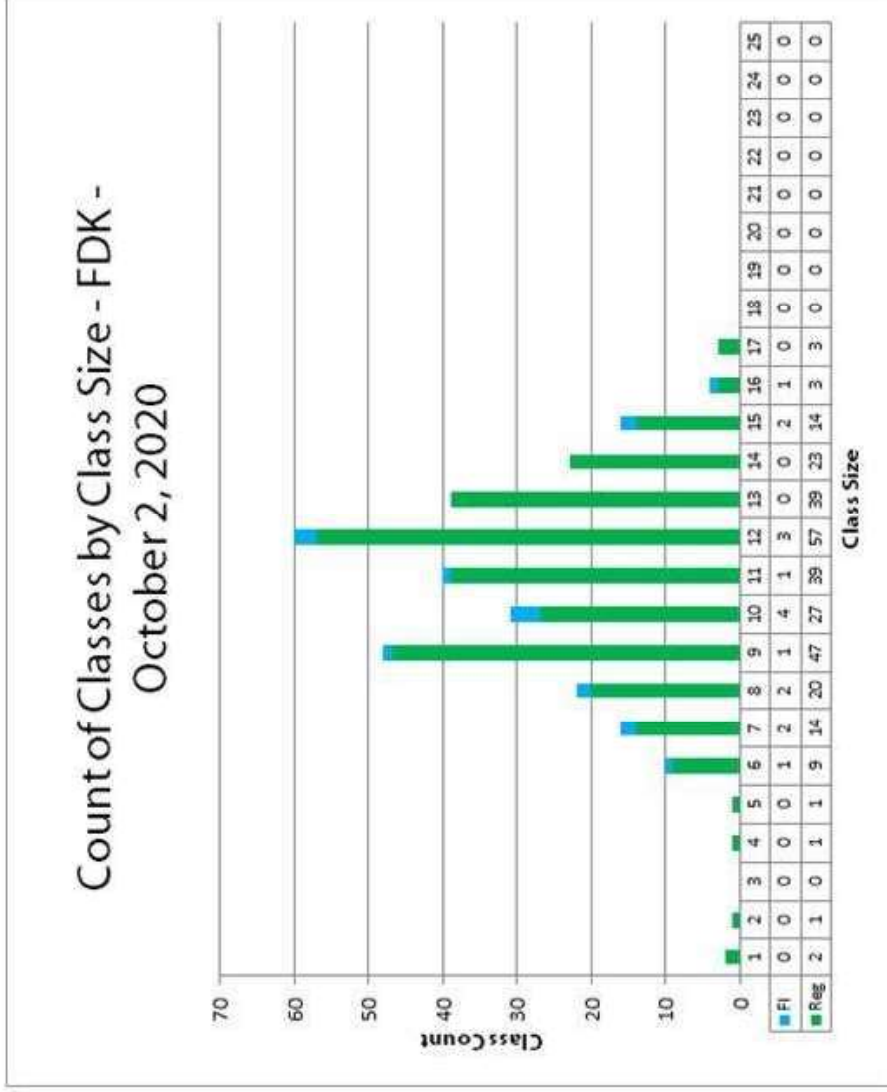


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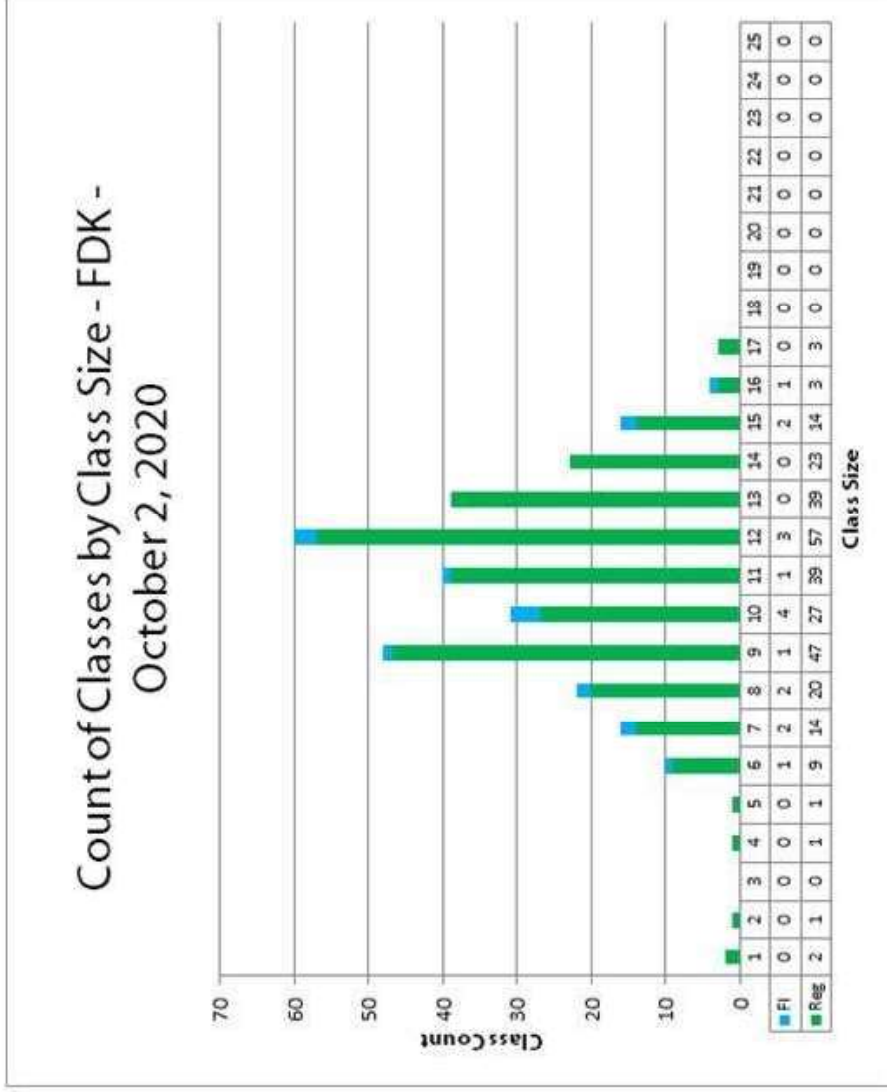
Count of Classes by Class Size - Gr 4-8 -
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High Impact Schools

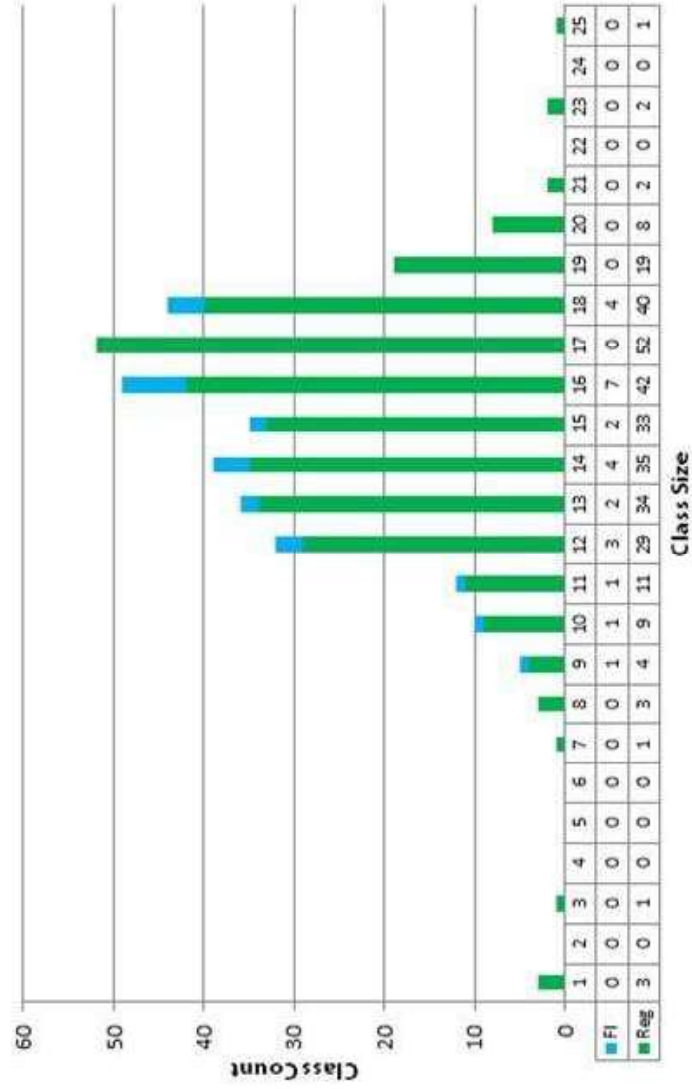


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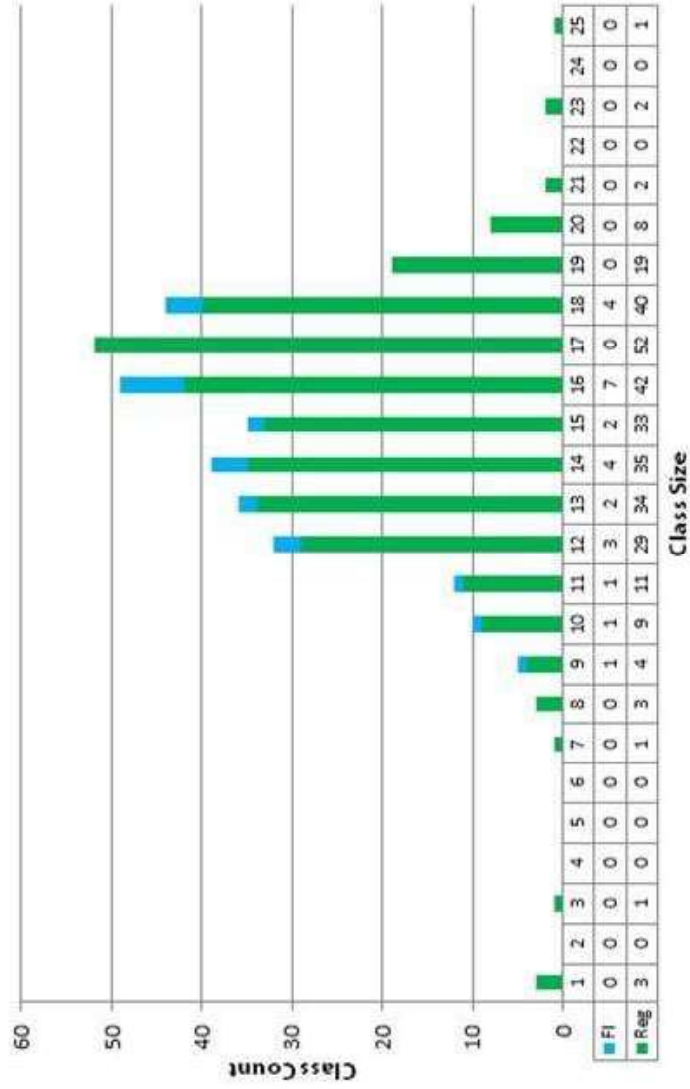
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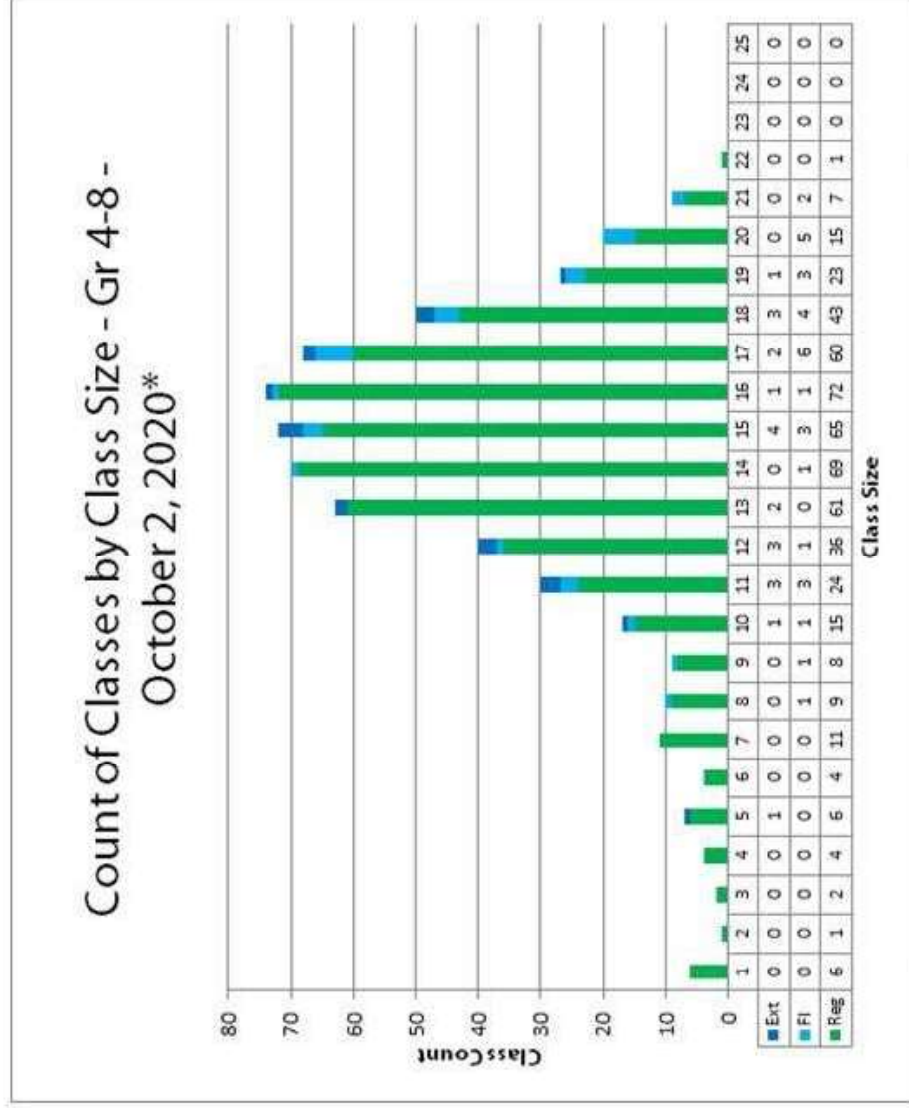


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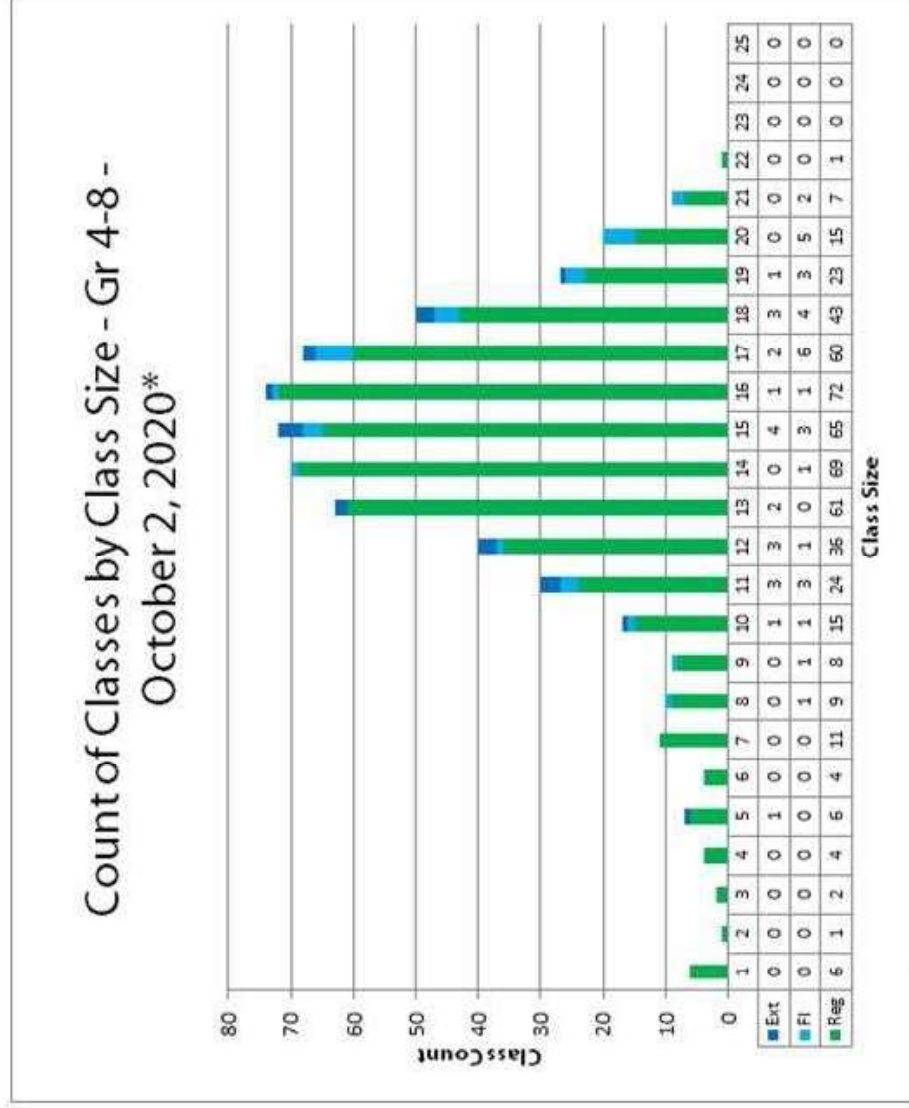
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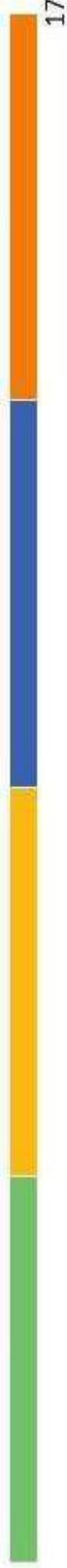
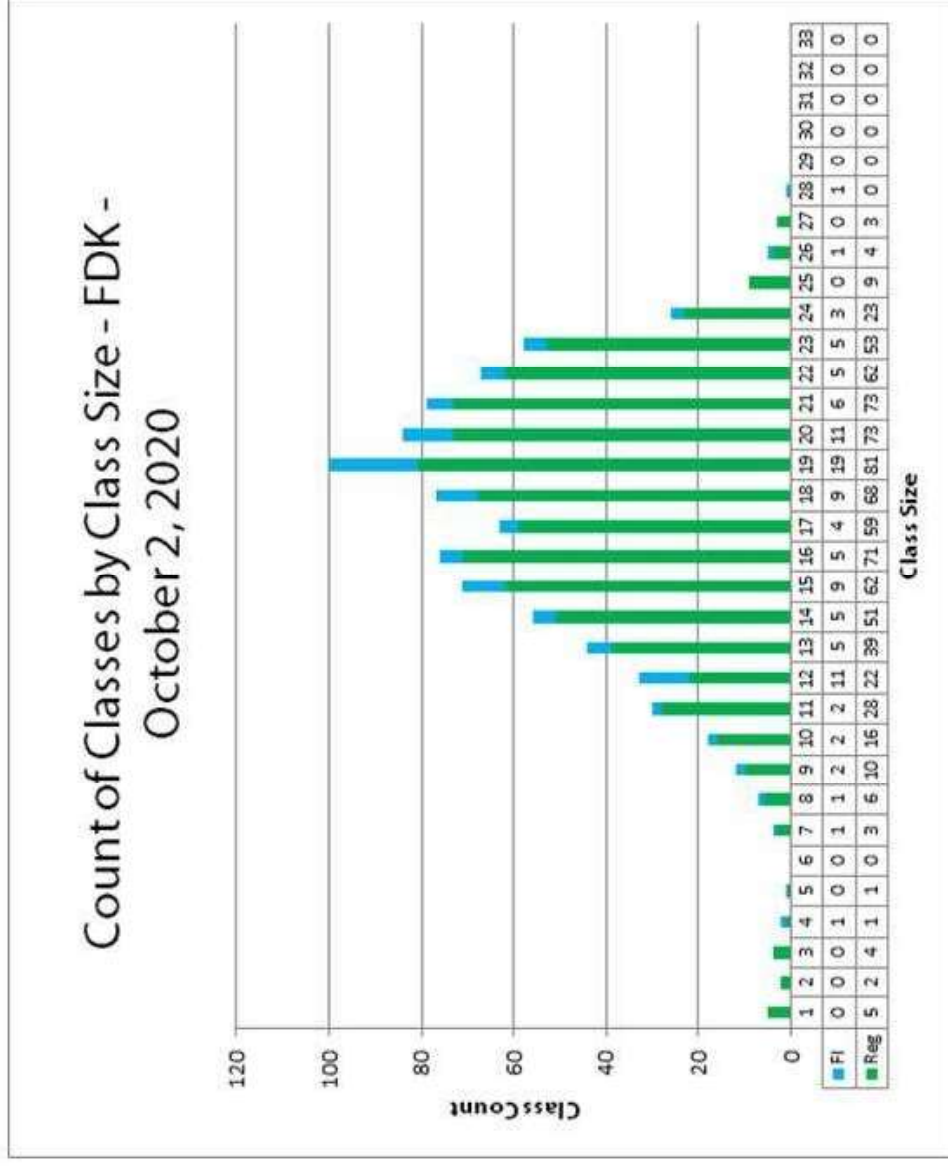
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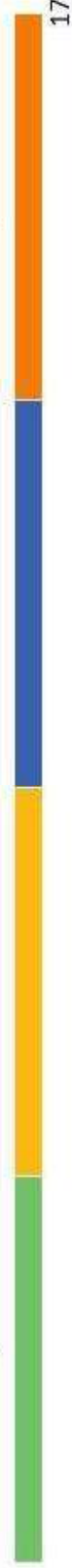
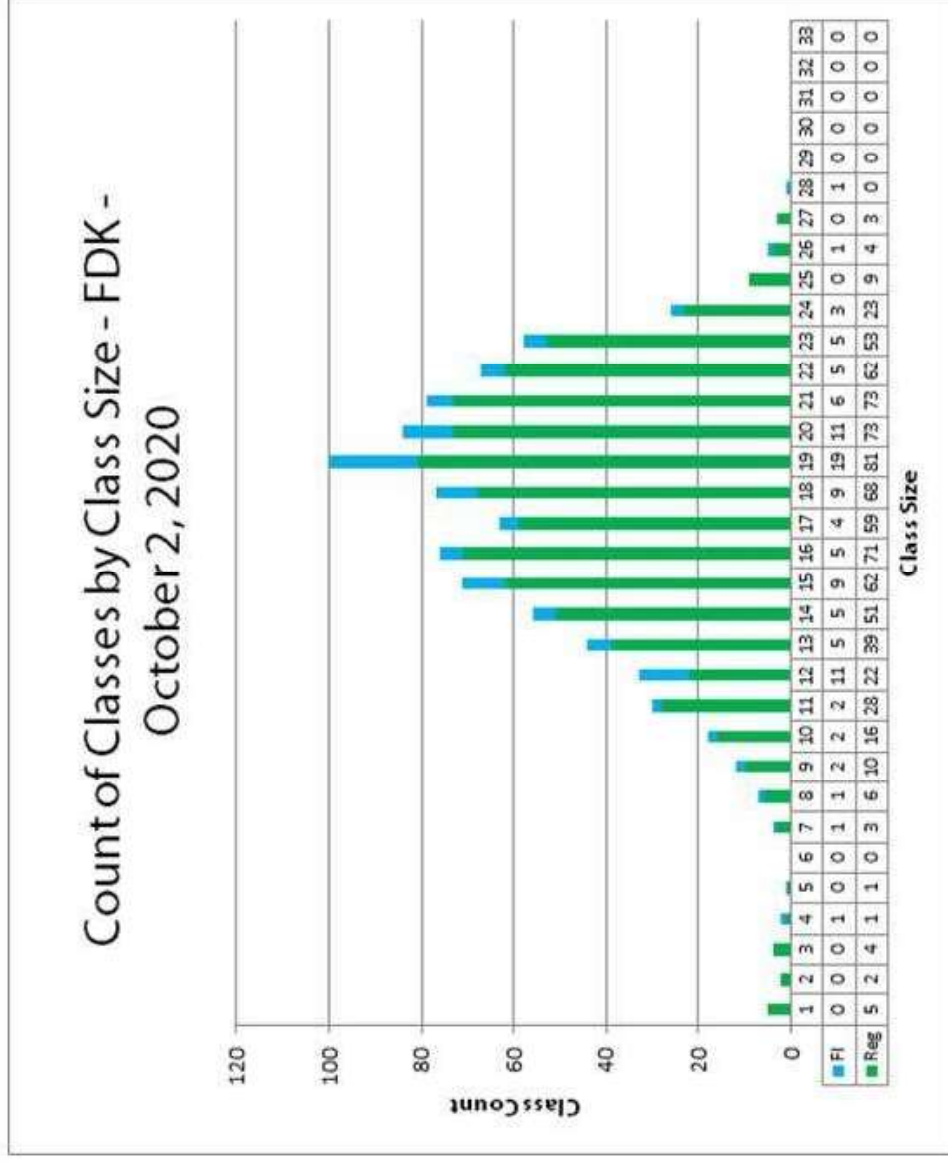
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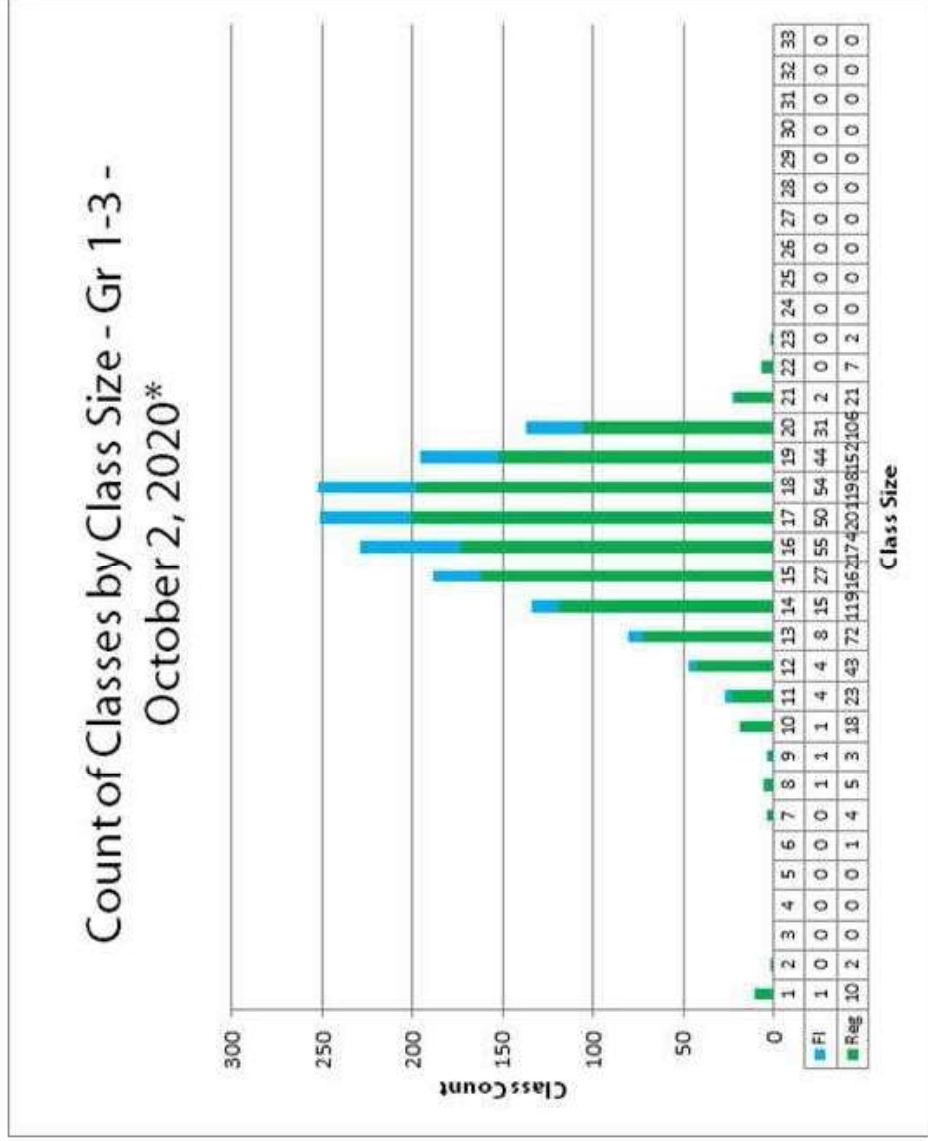
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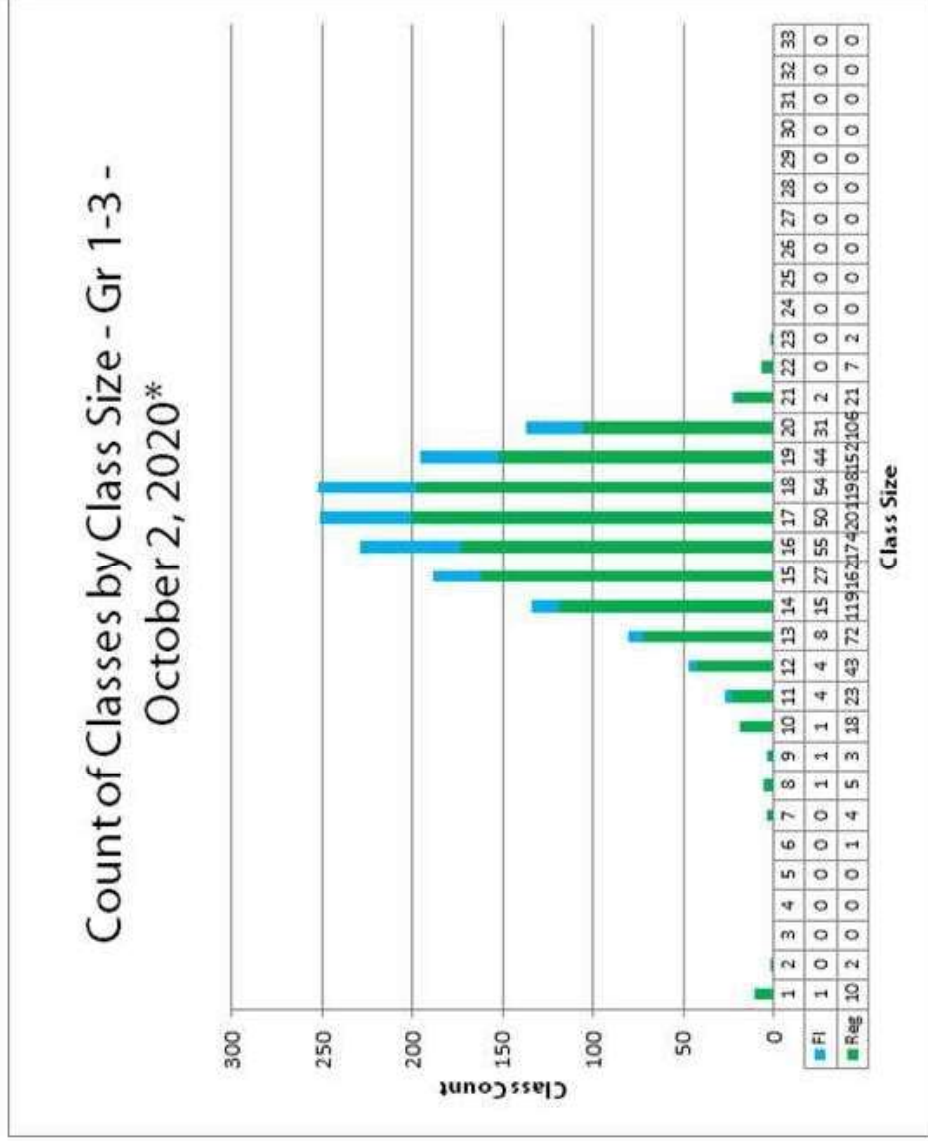
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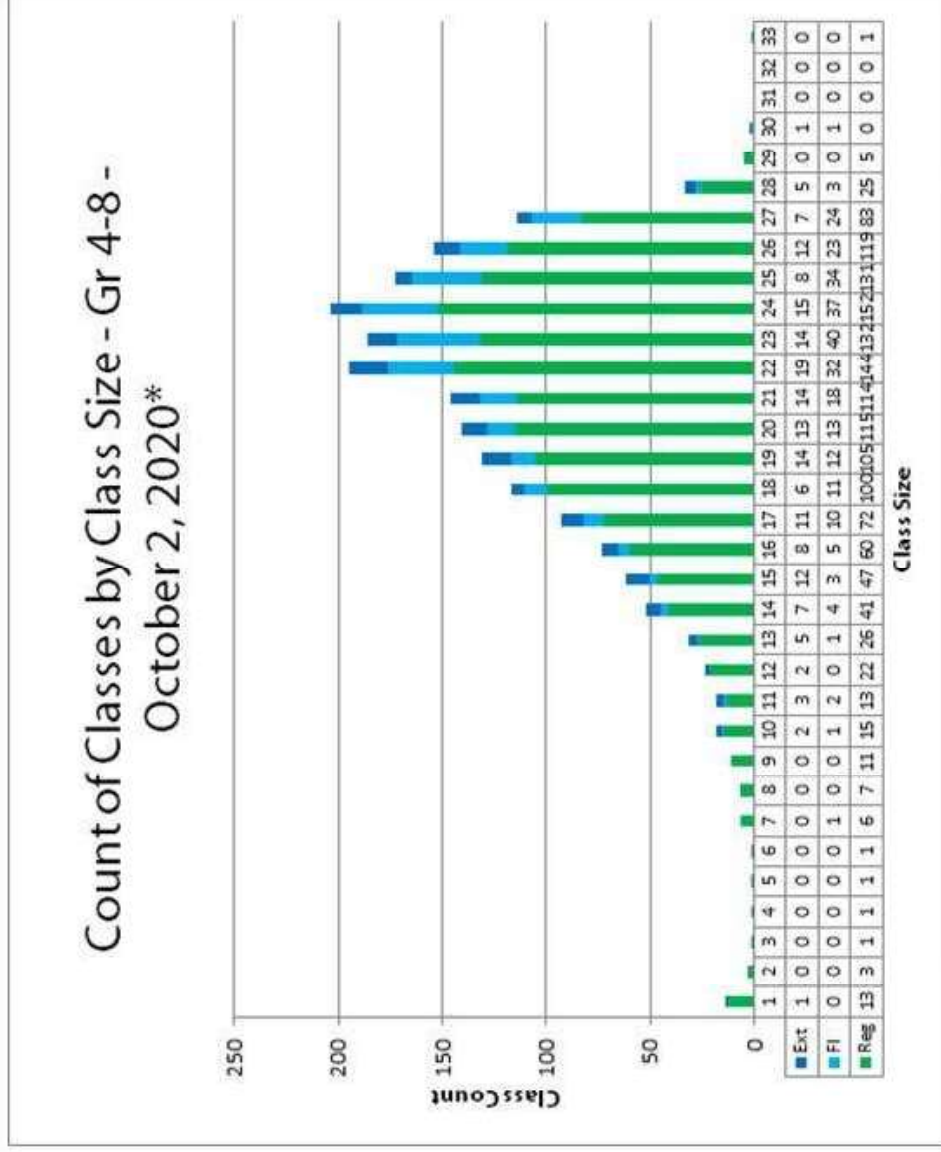
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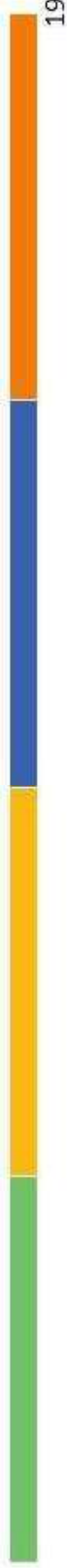
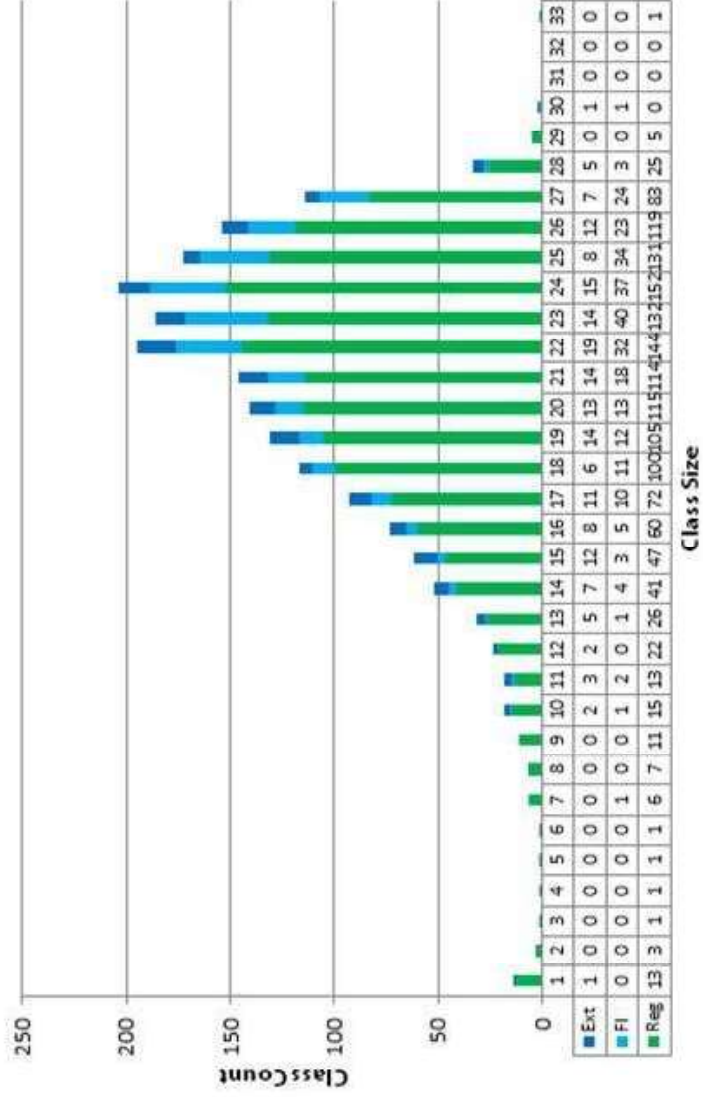


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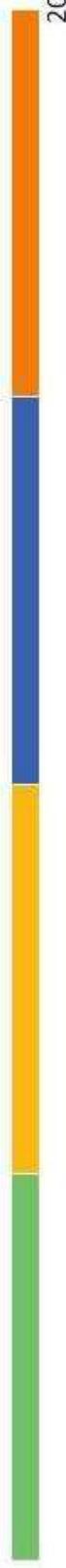
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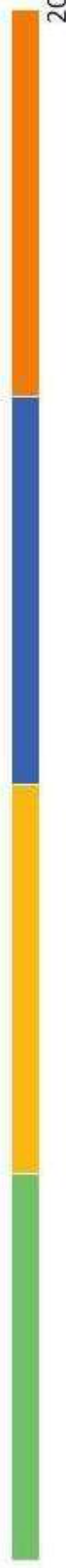
Elementary Reorganization Process

- Each year, school boards, including the TDSB, undergo a reorganization of classes in the opening weeks of school to balance classes and staffing based on the actual number of students that are in a class versus the projected number of students.
- While this is typically a routine process, this year will be significantly different as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The school year began with class size averages — based on registration numbers — that were slightly below our targeted class size caps.



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- This was achieved, in part, by allocating additional staff to schools in hopes of bringing the majority of classes in-line with the targets.
- At the time, teachers were not removed from schools with small class sizes to avoid further disruption.
- Our plan was to let enrolments stabilize and then have a complete system reorganization in late September/early October.
- While these decisions brought stability and helped address issues with higher class sizes, “bricks and mortar” schools are now overstaffed.



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- First formal weekly enrolment reporting was September 25 and indicated class size averages for in-person learning are significantly below actual average class sizes.
- The current percentage of elementary students in Virtual School is 35% compared to the 30% on which staffing allocations were based.
- By October 13, 2020, the percentage of elementary students in Virtual School will be 37.3%
- To have Virtual School classes at the desired targets, we have depended heavily on occasional teachers.



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- Permanent staff who are not required, based on the number of students in the school, will be redeployed to where they are needed (virtual school and possibly to other schools)
- There will be adjustments to class sizes, however they will remain within our targeted class caps so that health and safety standards relating to classroom size and social distancing can be maintained.
- We will continue with our commitment to provide lower class sizes in schools serving communities identified by Toronto Public Health as higher risk for contracting COVID-19.



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- As has been the case already this year, this will result in a greater number of combined grade classes.
- We must ensure we have allocated teachers to the places where students are attending and that staff allocations match available resources.
- As staffing of the Virtual School continued, additional temporary staffing were added to not disrupt staffing in the “bricks and mortar” schools. The reorganization process will allow us to return to the staffing levels that match the number of students we have.



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Reorganization Timelines

- Students/families had the opportunity to make their decisions on September 30, whether they will be continuing in or changing the location where their child(ren) is/are learning (ie in-school vs virtual)
- A reorganization of staffing will be required on very tight timelines. This reallocation of staff will occur to better support our students and their families by making sure we have staffing levels aligned with actual student enrolment.
- Currently, we are significantly over-staffed in many schools and there is a need for increased staffing in the Virtual School.
- Current Virtual School students without a teacher will be prioritized.



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Reorganization Timelines

September 30

- Deadline for requests to change from/to Virtual or In-Person school

October 3-4

- review of allocation data – in school enrollment as of October 2 and students changing in between virtual school and in-school learning



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Reorganization Timelines

October 5

- distribution of revised allocation sheets to schools
- Principals advise School Councils and Staffing Committees that they will likely need to meet for consultation on October 6

October 6

- consultation with School staffing committee/School Council
- submit new staffing models to Superintendent
- determination and declaration of surplus staff
- Superintendent provides approval for any changes to staffing models



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October 7-8

- teachers are informed of any assignment changes including redeployment to Virtual School

Friday, October 9

- realignment date (students/staff are moved and set up in Trillium for start on October 13)
- parents of students of in-person school, should be notified by their school of any changes



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Reorganization Timelines

Tuesday, October 13 and Wednesday, October 14

- in-person school: students and staff begin learning and teaching in new classes
- students new to Virtual School and students with a new teacher in Virtual School will work asynchronously until teacher connects

Thursday, October 15

- all students in both in-person school and Virtual School learning in class with their teacher



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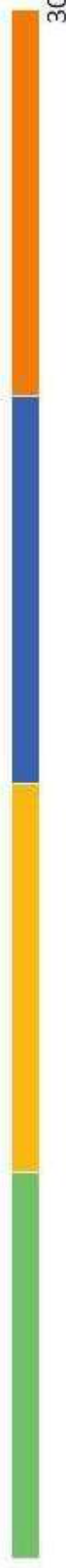
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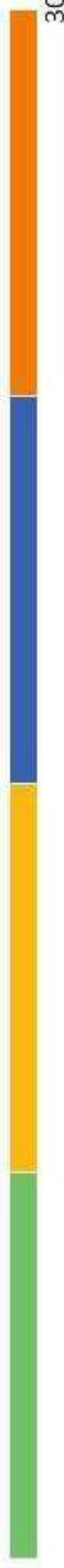
Health and Safety Strategies

- Staff have been working closely with Toronto Public Health on all health and safety strategies including through the establishment of new “cohorts”
- Cleaning of classrooms between change in cohorts
- Class lists maintained in SIS for contact tracing both before and after October 13 including seating plans
- Appropriate PPE available for all students and staff as needed
- HEPA filters in classroom without mechanical ventilation



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UPDATE: COVID-19 Screening Guidance

- In line with the Ministry of Education announcement on October 1, TPH revised their screening guidance and related materials
- Screening is now different for students and adults
- All TDSB materials were revised and shared
- The revised guidelines state students with symptoms such as fever and cough should still stay home until they are able to consult with a health care provider and receive an alternate diagnosis or a negative COVID-19 test.



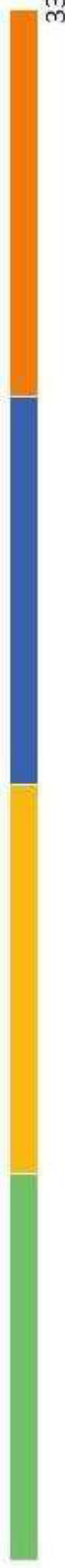
UPDATE: COVID-19 Screening Guidance

- A second set of questions now deals with symptoms that are commonly associated with other illnesses, such as runny nose or headache, and provides the following direction:
 - Students and children with only one of these symptoms will be advised to stay home for 24 hours, after which they can return to school or child care if their symptoms are improving.
 - Students and children with two or more of these symptoms will be advised to stay home until they are able to consult with a health care provider and receive an alternative diagnosis or a negative COVID-

19 test.

Outdoor Classrooms

- Concern about overnight security of tents and area
- Only available for use in fall, not long term solution
- Limited resources in both caretaker time and funds
- Equity of access across district
- Studying other boards use of tents and outdoor learning



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