

Secondary School Staffing Group (SSSG) Report 2012: School staffing and Class Size: PPTA key proposals

Staffing Formula

- 1 The staffing formula should be changed to eliminate the large class size disadvantage currently faced by large schools and junior highs.
- 2 A needs-based formula should be developed in consultation with the parties on the SSSG.
- 3 Changes to the resourcing can be phased in to make eliminating large class sizes affordable.

Quarterly funding

- 1 The quarterly funding mechanism should be reviewed in light of its disproportionately negative impact on low decile schools.

Class sizes

- 1 The Ministry of Education should collect data on actual class sizes in secondary schools annually.
- 2 Resourcing must allow schools to respond to health & safety issues in specific classes/subjects.
- 3 Principals want a staffing entitlement sufficient to meet the requirements of high-quality education and give teachers sufficient release time and classes of a manageable size.
- 4 No school should be forced to run classes of more than 30 students through inadequacy of staffing entitlement.
- 5 Parents favour smaller classes.
- 6 The demands of modern curriculum and assessment systems are more effectively met in groups of 25 students or less
- 7 Schools should be resourced through staffing entitlement so that every school has the flexibility to choose to keep classes at 25 or below.
- 8 Class sizes of up to 25 students provide suitable learning and teaching environments for students & teachers.