



CLASS SIZE POLICY

CRIA understands the importance of providing an effective level of staffing for each classroom. Taking into consideration the best interest of all students and teaching staff concerned, and mindful of both educational and financial considerations, the Class Size Policy provides target guidelines for the administration to appropriately staff all classrooms. In keeping with the CRIA vision to be a world-class international school with a culture of high expectations, high performance and accountability, this policy is designed to provide the administration with the agility to effectively staff each classroom without inhibiting the CRIA mission to serve a growing international community in Guanacaste.

Parents and staff are expected to understand the complexities underlying target guidelines: the needs of a changing student population, the exigencies of a total school program, and all the uncertainties inherent in the operation of an international school. Because of these complexities, class sizes will vary from one class to another as we grow.

Target Guidelines

1. **Toddler (3-years old).** The maximum within the Toddler class should not exceed 24 students, with Teacher/Teaching Assistant (TA) to Student Ratio of approximately 1:8. (For example, 24 students are taught by one teacher and two TAs). Minimum class size of 12.
2. **Pre-K and KG (4-5 years old).** Maximum class size of 24 each, with a Teacher/TA to Student Ratio of 1:9. (For example, 18 students are taught by one teacher and one TA). Minimum class size of 12.
3. **Grades 1-5 (6-11 years old).** Maximum of 24 students each for a full year, with partial or whole TA support added to classes above 22 students for grades 3-5. Grades 1-2 shall have partial or whole TA support with a minimum of 12 full-time students. Minimum class size of 12.
4. **Grades 6-12 (11-18 years old).** The Secondary Program targets a maximum of 24 students per class. Grades 10-12 have minimum class sizes of 5 for college preparatory AP courses, and 8 minimum per class for core courses and electives.
5. No class should run with more than 24 students for a period more than one school year; classes will be split into two at the beginning of the next school year (or if feasible at the semester break) when 25 or more students enrolled for the grade level or subject course.
6. The normal minimum number of students for an instructional class must be full-year students; all target guidelines are based upon full-year students enrolled per class.

Reviewed May 2023

Board Adopted: August 2023