



December 5, 2017

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

(Second Reading)

Approval to Re-establish a Cap of Students at the Kindergarten and/or Junior Kindergarten Grade Level for the SY 18-19 JK/K Lottery

RECOMMENDATION:

"When enrolling students for kindergarten and/or junior kindergarten each school or program will admit no more students per grade level than the number of seats that the school or program has in its first grade classrooms plus 2. Once the number of students admitted to kindergarten or junior kindergarten reaches the number of seats in that school's or that program's first grade plus 2, only children from the other grade level will be admitted. In other words, if a school or program with two first grades with a capacity of no more than a total of fifty (50) students, the assignments of students to junior kindergarten would not exceed 52 and the assignment of students to kindergarten would not exceed 52.

In a situation where the maximum capacity of kindergarten or junior kindergarten students have been assigned to a school and a vacancy occurs the first student on the waitlist shall be assigned unless his/her assignment brings the kindergarten or junior kindergarten enrollment over the maximum capacity number of the schools' or program's first grade. If the assignment of the first child from the waitlist would result in a grade level enrollment number greater than the first grade capacity, the Family Resource Center shall move down the waitlist until a child from the other grade is reached or leave the seat open. "

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BACKGROUND:

A cap for the K grade level was instituted during the 2014 Lottery. This cap meant that the K grade level at the Lottery for each school and program would not exceed the equivalent to the maximum allowable by teacher contract for the first grade. In the 2016 Lottery, this cap was modified to be equivalent to the equivalent to the maximum allowable by teacher contract for the first grade plus 2.

Last year, it was recommended to remove the cap for the K grade level under the belief that there would be no issue involving managing K enrollment post Lottery down to the equivalent of the first grade. While there are no issues in 12 of our schools and programs, two immersion programs have issues. We are asking to re-establish the K grade level cap at all schools and programs to be the equivalent to the maximum allowable by teacher contract for the first grade plus 2.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KS' or similar initials, written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth N. Salim
Superintendent of Schools