



Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ . I am a concerned parent at Apex Elementary School and your constituent. I am writing to ask whether and how you plan to help address the NCGA's class size mandate and the harms it has caused.

Should this class size mandate not be addressed by 2018, our school will see upwards of 31 students in our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades and possible combo classes in our younger grades. This places an undue burden on teachers and does not contribute to a healthy learning environment.

In 2017, our school was forced to fire our full time technology specialist and instead hire an un-certified teacher who, although working full time hours, has to rely upon the classroom teachers and grade level chairs to come up with curriculum for the technology rotation. This, of course, demands additional planning time on the part of the teachers -- planning time they don't have.

EVERY ONE of our Kindergarten and 3rd grade classrooms has more than 18 students. Yet we have no additional classroom space. What will we do, come fall of 2018, when we are forced to find more teachers (teachers that NC cannot produce fast enough) and classroom space that simply doesn't exist? We will be forced to either eliminate our specialists or move them to carts.

While I agree that small class sizes may be an admirable goal, they are not worth the loss of specials or any of the other ill-effects that they are causing in the schools. Therefore, I am asking for your help in solving this problem. One way to help is to sign and enact the provisions of the NC Education Pledge that was delivered to your office in June (and may be found at [ncdepledge.org](http://ncdepledge.org)). You may also consider sponsoring a bill that would waive the class size requirements for school systems that cannot, despite a good faith effort to do so, comply with the mandate without causing significant harm to the overall quality of their students' instruction.

I understand that the NCGA's regular session does not start until May 16. However, this is an issue that needs to be addressed as soon as possible. Therefore, I ask that you that you consider asking your leadership to call another special session to deal specifically with this issue.

Respectfully,

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