

## **DETERMINING ACCOMODATION REQUIRED**

### **PRIMARY SCHOOL**

#### **Background**

In a media statement dated 26 September 1998, the then Minister for Education announced that all primary schools would be staffed to have class sizes of 28 students or less in Years 1 to 3 from 1999, and 24 students from 2003.

In order to conform with the class size criteria outlined in the media statement, the following method was adopted for calculating the number of classes that a primary school is assumed to form.

#### **Early Childhood Year Levels (Kindergarten and Pre-primary)**

Kindergarten students currently attend half time and one classroom can accommodate two groups of 20 students (ie 40 students) over the school week. Pre-primary students attend full time, with a class size of 25 students in transportable classroom or 27 in a permanent early childhood classroom.

#### **Primary School Accommodation Formula**

The following enrolment based formula ensures that the class sizes in Years 1 to 3 are 24 or less. The media statement made no reference to class sizes for Years 4 to 7 changing, and these have been assumed to remain at a maximum of 32 students.

Number of classes: (Number of students in Kindergarten divided by 40) + (Number of students in Pre-primary divided by 25) + (Number of students in Yr1+Yr2+Yr3 divided by 24) + (Number of students in Yr4+Yr5+Yr6+Yr7 divided by 32) rounded-up to the nearest whole number of classes.

For example, if a primary school with these enrolments in Kindergarten 70, Pre-primary 65 and Years 1 to 7: 65, 34, 78, 72, 67, 71, and 75, would form 22 classes, and the school would require 22 classrooms for Kindergarten to Year 7.

In addition to the above number of classrooms required:

- a school with an Education Support teacher may require an additional classroom.
- subject to the size of a school, a school may have some specialist classrooms (eg a school with 400 students would often have an art/craft room and a music room).
- a school may require an additional classroom (or two) in order to ensure that the number of classrooms available corresponds with the number of classes likely to be formed with the current staffing provided.

#### **Application**

The above formula is used to assess the number of classrooms required to accommodate students in the primary school year-levels (ie Kindergarten to Years 7) at early childhood centres, junior primary schools, primary schools and district high schools. As enrolments at remote community schools often do not reflect average daily attendance numbers, the accommodation provided may be reduced accordingly. The formula is used to determine whether transportable classrooms are required at schools, and if so, the number required.

## SECONDARY SCHOOL

The amount of student accommodation required at a secondary school is based upon the number of classes that the school is entitled to form.

A school's form class entitlement (FCE) is based on lower school (Year 8 to 10) classes of 32 students and upper school (Years 11 and 12) classes of 25 students. Secondary schools operating within the Behaviour Management and Discipline Strategy (BDMS) have their accommodation requirements based on 25 students per class in Years 8 and 9.

Classes in the English as a Second Language (ESL) Programme may have up to 15 students per class.

The standard unit used to assess the amount of student accommodation at secondary schools is the Effective Full Teaching Area (EFTA). Each teaching area in a secondary school is given a value of either 1.0 EFTA (standard classroom, science laboratory, library, hall/gymnasium), 0.5 EFTA (seminar, home economics or manual arts room) or 0.0 EFTA (photography dark room, time out room).

The standard class occupancy of available Effective Full Teaching Areas is assumed to be 90%. For example, a school with 50 EFTA is assumed to have sufficient capacity for 45 form classes.

The following table shows the calculation of the FCE for a hypothetical senior high school (that is not in the BDMS group).

Year	Enrolment	FCE
8	168	6
9	194	7
10	160	5
11	145	6
12	120	5
ESL	12	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>30</b>

Note: The number of classes is rounded up at each year-level. In the above example, for the Year 8 level,  $168/32 = 5.25$ , and this is rounded up to a FCE of 6.

A school with 30 form classes would require 34 EFTA. Schools with an Education Support teacher may be entitled to an additional classroom.

While the above procedure operates in evaluating the accommodation requirements of high and senior high schools, it may not be always directly applicable to district high schools in rural areas. Non-standard specialist classrooms and small class sizes may result in the above being inappropriate for some district high schools.

History of changes:

Version No.	Date	Trim No.	Key changes
Version 1.0	15 March 2013	D13/0087882	
Version 1.1	27 November 2013	D13/0638579	Content of document has not changed. New header and footer information added: 'Uncontrolled when printed' and Version number / date.