

# DOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

## FY27 Enrollment Capacity Report

*Student-Educator Ratio Compliance Review*

**Board Policy IIB · NH Administrative Rule Ed 306.14 · Enrollment Data as of June 1, 2026**

### 1. Purpose & Regulatory Framework

This report presents Dover School District's FY27 projected enrollment capacity analysis, evaluated against Board Policy IIB (Class Sizes and Student-Educator Ratios, adopted February 9, 2026) and NH Administrative Rule Ed 306.14 (Student-Educator Ratios, effective December 13, 2024). The report provides the Board with a grade-by-grade and building-by-building view of projected instructional staffing adequacy for the 2026–2027 academic year.

#### 1a. Applicable Policy Standards

| Grade Band              | NH Ed 306.14 (State Rule)                                                        | Board Policy IIB (Local — Feb. 9, 2026)                                                |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Kindergarten – Grade 2  | Max 25 per educator / strive for 20                                              | Max 25 per educator / strive for 20 (consistent with state)                            |
| Grades 3 – 5            | Max 30 per educator / strive for 25                                              | Max 30 per educator / strive for 25 (consistent with state)                            |
| Middle School (Gr 6–8)  | Max 30 per educator / strive for 25                                              | Max 30 per educator / strive for 25 (consistent with state)                            |
| High School (Gr 9–12)   | Max 30 per educator                                                              | Max 30 per educator / strive for 25                                                    |
| Exceptions (all levels) | Study halls, band, chorus, large group instruction; Lab/CTE by workstation count | Same exceptions: study halls, band, choir, large group, lab/CTE (by workstation count) |

**Note on Ed 306.14 (December 2024 Revision):** The revised Ed 306.14, effective December 13, 2024, replaced prescriptive state maximum class sizes with a requirement that local school boards establish student-educator ratios promoting student learning, based on safety, content, instructional method, and learner characteristics. Dover's Board Policy IIB, adopted February 9, 2026, establishes local ratios fully consistent with the prior state standards, maintaining strong class size protections across all levels.

### 2. District-Wide Enrollment Summary — FY27

The table below provides a building-level summary of FY27 projected enrollment, FTE staffing, school-wide average student-educator ratios, and compliance status. Per-grade detail for each building follows in Section 3.

| School                         | FY27 Proj. Enrollment | Total FTEs | School-Wide Avg Ratio | Policy Strive Target | Status        |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Garrison Elem. School (GES)    | 309                   | 19         | 16.3 : 1              | 20 (K-2) / 25 (3-5)  | Meets Strive  |
| Francis G. Hopkins Elem. (FGH) | 395                   | 24         | 16.5 : 1              | 20 (K-2) / 25 (3-5)  | Meets Strive  |
| Woodman Park Elem. (WPS)       | 350                   | 21         | 16.7 : 1              | 20 (K-2) / 25 (3-5)  | Meets Strive  |
| Dover Middle School (DMS)      | 893                   | 44         | 20.3 : 1              | 25                   | Meets Strive  |
| Dover High School (DHS)        | 1319                  | 123        | 10.7 : 1*             | 25                   | See Note*     |
| District Total                 | 3,266                 | 231        | 14.1 : 1              | —                    | In Compliance |

**District Total FY27 Projected Enrollment: 3,266 students**

**Elementary (FGH + GES + WPS): 1,054 | Dover Middle School: 893 | Dover High School: 1,319**

FY27 projected district-wide enrollment (3,266) is below the 7-year average of 3,694, reflecting a continuing enrollment decline trend. All buildings are operating within policy maximum class size limits.

### 3. Building-Level Capacity Detail

The following sections report FY27 projected enrollment by grade level for each building. "Avg Class Size" is a projected average (enrollment ÷ FTEs) — actual class sizes will vary by section configuration.

#### 3a. Francis G. Hopkins Elementary School (FGH) — 395 Students / 24 FTEs

| Gr | School | FY27<br>Enroll. | FTEs | Avg<br>Class<br>Size | Strive<br>Target | Policy<br>Max | Min Sec.<br>@ Max | Status              |
|----|--------|-----------------|------|----------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| K  | FGH    | 73              | 5    | 14.6                 | 20               | 25            | 3                 | Meets Strive Target |
| 1  | FGH    | 80              | 5    | 16.0                 | 20               | 25            | 4                 | Meets Strive Target |
| 2  | FGH    | 73              | 4    | 18.3                 | 20               | 25            | 3                 | Meets Strive Target |
| 3  | FGH    | 83              | 5    | 16.6                 | 25               | 30            | 3                 | Meets Strive Target |
| 4  | FGH    | 86              | 5    | 17.2                 | 25               | 30            | 3                 | Meets Strive Target |

#### 3b. Garrison Elementary School (GES) — 309 Students / 19 FTEs

| Gr | School | FY27<br>Enroll. | FTEs | Avg<br>Class<br>Size | Strive<br>Target | Policy<br>Max | Min Sec.<br>@ Max | Status              |
|----|--------|-----------------|------|----------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| K  | GES    | 41              | 3    | 13.7                 | 20               | 25            | 2                 | Meets Strive Target |
| 1  | GES    | 63              | 4    | 15.8                 | 20               | 25            | 3                 | Meets Strive Target |
| 2  | GES    | 63              | 4    | 15.8                 | 20               | 25            | 3                 | Meets Strive Target |
| 3  | GES    | 66              | 4    | 16.5                 | 25               | 30            | 3                 | Meets Strive Target |
| 4  | GES    | 76              | 4    | 19.0                 | 25               | 30            | 3                 | Meets Strive Target |

#### 3c. Woodman Park Elementary School (WPS) — 350 Students / 21 FTEs

| Gr | School | FY27<br>Enroll. | FTEs | Avg<br>Class<br>Size | Strive<br>Target | Policy<br>Max | Min Sec.<br>@ Max | Status              |
|----|--------|-----------------|------|----------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| K  | WPS    | 59              | 5    | 11.8                 | 20               | 25            | 3                 | Meets Strive Target |
| 1  | WPS    | 78              | 4    | 19.5                 | 20               | 25            | 4                 | Meets Strive Target |
| 2  | WPS    | 60              | 4    | 15.0                 | 20               | 25            | 3                 | Meets Strive Target |
| 3  | WPS    | 80              | 4    | 20.0                 | 25               | 30            | 3                 | Meets Strive Target |
| 4  | WPS    | 73              | 4    | 18.3                 | 25               | 30            | 3                 | Meets Strive Target |

#### 3d. Dover Middle School (DMS) — 893 Students / 44 FTEs



| Gr | FY27 Enroll. | FTEs | Avg Class Size | Strive Target | Policy Max | Min Sec. @ Max | Status              |
|----|--------------|------|----------------|---------------|------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 5  | 254          | 10   | 25.4           | 25            | 30         | 9              | At/Near Maximum     |
| 6  | 205          | 10   | 20.5           | 25            | 30         | 7              | Meets Strive Target |
| 7  | 221          | 12   | 18.4           | 25            | 30         | 8              | Meets Strive Target |
| 8  | 213          | 12   | 17.8           | 25            | 30         | 8              | Meets Strive Target |

**Grade 5 Attention Item:**

Grade 5 projects an average class size of 25.4 with 10 FTEs assigned to 254 students. This is marginally above the 25-student strive target (but well within the 30-student maximum). Administration should evaluate whether section reconfiguration or a fractional FTE adjustment is warranted prior to the FY27 school year start. The 7-year average for Grade 5 is 243 students — the FY27 projection of 254 is above average and may carry upward through DMS grade levels in subsequent years.

**3e. Dover High School (DHS) — 1,319 Students / 123 FTEs**

| Gr | FY27 Proj. Enroll. | School-Wide FTEs  | School-Wide Ratio  | Policy Max / Strive Target       | Status         |
|----|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 9  | 306                | 123 (school-wide) | 10.7 (school-wide) | Max 30 / Strive 25 (per section) | See Note Below |
| 10 | 361                | 123 (school-wide) | 10.7 (school-wide) | Max 30 / Strive 25 (per section) | See Note Below |
| 11 | 352                | 123 (school-wide) | 10.7 (school-wide) | Max 30 / Strive 25 (per section) | See Note Below |
| 12 | 300                | 123 (school-wide) | 10.7 (school-wide) | Max 30 / Strive 25 (per section) | See Note Below |

**DHS TOTAL: 1,319 students | 123 FTEs | School-wide ratio: 10.7 : 1**

**\* DHS Ratio Methodology Note:**

The DHS school-wide ratio of 10.7:1 reflects total school enrollment divided by all reported instructional FTEs (123). This figure represents overall staffing density and is well below all policy thresholds at the aggregate level. However, Policy IIB and Ed 306.14 apply at the individual class/section level, not school-wide. DHS operates a complex schedule with significant variation across core courses, electives, AP, CTE, and special programs.

**Required Action:** Per-section class size data from the DHS master schedule should be reviewed annually to confirm that no individual course sections (excluding applicable exemptions) exceed the 30-student policy maximum.

**Grade 9 Projection Note:** FY27 Grade 9 enrollment (306) is calculated using FY26 Grade 8 June 1 enrollment plus the 7-year average of Barrington and Nottingham tuitioned Grade 9 enrollment. This is below the 7-year Grade 9 average of 372.

**Policy Exceptions at DHS:** Study halls, band, choir, large group instruction, and CTE/science lab courses are explicitly exempt from per-educator ratio limits under both Ed 306.14(b)-(c) and Policy IIB Section B. Lab/CTE class sizes are governed by workstation count and classroom design.



## 4. Compliance Findings

Based on FY27 projected enrollment as of June 1, 2026, the following findings are presented for Board review:

| # | Building                       | Finding                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Status                 |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | All Elementary (FGH, GES, WPS) | All grade-level average class sizes fall below Policy IIB strive targets for K–2 (20) and Grades 3–5 (25). School-wide averages range from 16.3 to 16.7. No elementary grade or school approaches the policy maximum. | Meets Strive Target    |
| 2 | DMS — Grades 6–8               | Grades 6 (20.5), 7 (18.4), and 8 (17.8) all project average class sizes well within the strive target of 25 and the policy maximum of 30.                                                                             | Meets Strive Target    |
| 3 | DMS — Grade 5                  | Grade 5 projects an average class size of 25.4 — marginally above the 25-student strive target but within the 30-student maximum. Monitoring and possible section adjustment recommended.                             | Monitor (Near Strive)  |
| 4 | DHS                            | School-wide ratio is 10.7:1, well within all thresholds at the aggregate level. Compliance at the per-section level requires annual review of the master schedule data.                                               | Pending Section Review |
| 5 | District                       | No grade level or building is projected to exceed the policy maximum class size. All elementary and middle school buildings meet strive targets at the school-wide level.                                             | In Compliance          |

## 5. Recommended Actions

### 5a. Prior to FY27 School Year Start

- Review Grade 5 DMS scheduling to evaluate whether section reconfiguration or an FTE adjustment can bring the projected average to at or below 25 students in alignment with the policy strive target.
- Obtain and review DHS per-section class size data from the master course schedule. Confirm no individual sections exceed the policy maximum of 30 students (excluding applicable exemptions).
- Update the WPS Kindergarten enrollment projection once FY26 preschool enrollment data is finalized, as the current figure does not include that cohort.

### 5b. Annual Compliance Process

- Establish this capacity report as a standing annual Board item — presented each spring based on June 1 projected enrollment for the following year, and each fall based on October 1 actual enrollment.
- Require each building principal to certify annually that all class sections at their building are in compliance with Policy IIB and Ed 306.14 prior to the school year start.
- Require DHS to include per-section maximum class size verification as part of its annual master schedule review, with results reported to the Superintendent.

- Document and report policy exceptions (study halls, band/choir, large group instruction, lab/CTE) separately each year to ensure appropriate application under Policy IIB Section B and Ed 306.14(b)-(c).

### 5c. Enrollment Trend Monitoring

- Monitor the Grade 5 DMS cohort closely. FY27's projection of 254 is above the 7-year average of 243, suggesting a larger cohort moving upward through DMS grades in FY28 and FY29.
- DHS Grade 9 enrollment (306) is below the 7-year average of 372. Continue to monitor tuitioned enrollment from Barrington and Nottingham, which materially impacts DHS totals.
- District-wide enrollment of 3,266 is below the 7-year average of 3,694. Future capacity planning should proactively address potential section consolidations and FTE alignment opportunities.
- **While class sizes show some capacity for additional enrollment, it is important to note that our ratios for counseling, health services and psychological services are at capacity. Our ratios for special education and related services are over capacity.**
- **It is not recommended to enroll any additional students outside of our existing tuition agreements with Barrington, Nottingham and a limited 10 student per year agreement with Strafford (on a per student basis).**
- **Elementary schools do not have capacity to add additional classroom spaces.**

#### Board Action Opportunity

The Board may wish to formally receive and accept this annual capacity report as part of its Policy IIB oversight function. Doing so creates a record of due diligence in monitoring student-educator ratios consistent with district policy and NH Administrative Rule Ed 306.14.

*Prepared by: Dr. Christine Boston, Ed.D. | Superintendent of Schools | Dover School District — SAU 11  
Enrollment Data as of June 1, 2026 | References: Board Policy IIB (Rev. Feb. 9, 2026) & NH Admin. Rule Ed 306.14  
(Eff. Dec. 13, 2024)*